Hafa Adai!

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Inos, Kilili explore solutions to pension fund's woes. PAGE 3
$2.5M baccarat winner at the Tinian Dynasty. PAGE 5

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 the lowest and 5 the highest, rate the clarity with which the USCIS outreach team explained the various provisions of the CW rule:

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Deadly Typhoon

Typhoon Nesat unleashes floodwaters and fierce winds that killed at least 20.

ASIA...Page 15

Gay Census

The number of Americans living with same-sex partners nearly doubles.

FOCUS...Page 17

Plant a Tree

Everyone grab a shovel and get ready to plant a tree. But wait!

ENVIRONMENT...Page 18

Kilili, CNMI lawmakers want minimum wage hike in 2012

» Submerged lands bill up for US House vote on Monday

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) said yesterday that the CNMI minimum wage should be increased by another 50 cents in 2012 as required by U.S. law, but he is open to supporting a delay in 2013 just like in 2011 if warranted.

At the same time, Sablan is hoping that his H.R. 670, which conveys three miles of submerged lands to the CNMI, will pass the U.S. House of Representatives on Monday.

Sablan's position on the minimum wage increase is supported by some CNMI lawmakers interviewed yesterday, although some of those who testified at a hearing in Washington, D.C. on Friday, including Interior Assistant Secretary Tony Babauta, called for further postponement in the wage hike both in the CNMI and American Samoa.

"I am not going to do anything to change the increase for 2012. It will go up 50 cents an hour. What we're looking at now is 2013 and 2014. That's what the hearing [in Washing-

See WAGE on Page 4

FOR THE YOUTH HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) and young philanthropist AngelRay Guerrero are joined by House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan), other government officials and volunteers in presenting some eight boxes of books that Sablan obtained from the Library of Congress Surplus Book Program, during a brief ceremony at the Koblerville Youth Learning Center yesterday afternoon. Other schools, organizations, and agencies in the CNMI have also benefited from Sablan and Guerrero's book donations.

Chamber's wage survey results out on Monday

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Results of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's prevailing wage survey will be distributed starting Monday to many of the 218 participating employers representing 8,675 jobs, executive director Richard Pierce said yesterday.

Pierce

Companies and organizations that did not take part in the Chamber survey are not entitled to the copyrighted summary report but they

See CHAMBER'S on Page 4

CUC agrees: LEAC rate needs change

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. admitted yesterday that its existing formula for calculating the levelized energy adjustment clause rate needs to be modified but disagrees with the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission's consultant on how it should be done.

In its report to the CPUC yesterday, the utilities company also opposed rushing the process for the commission to come up with a new LEAC rate.

Georgetown Consulting Inc., the commission's independent consultant, stated in its report filed Monday that the existing LEAC rate is higher than required and needs to be reduced at the earliest

See CUC on Page 4

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Local

Over 200 cast votes for ASNMC poll; 5 winners certified

Northern Marianas College student Angela Deleon Guerrero casts her vote during Tuesday's election of new officers for the Associated Students of Northern Marianas College.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Over 200 students cast their votes during the two-day election of new officers for the Associated Students of Northern Marianas College. Five candidates were later certified winners.

NMC has over a thousand enrollees this semester of which only 213 individuals participated in the poll, which is about 20 percent of the institution's student population.

Saipan Tribune learned that the winners of the elections were actually the same ones that vied for the posts.

NMC certified Lawrence Camacho as the new president of the student council, while Keolester Buenpacifico emerged as the new vice president. Another unopposed candidate, Lauren Jardinero, was proclaimed the organization's new secretary while no one was named for the treasurer position.

This school year, the election seeks three seats for student senators of which only two slots were filled and certified. Eldred Sanchez and write-in candidate Antonette Castro won the race.

The two-day election was held on Sept. 26 and 27. The winners will be sworn into office today.

Saipan Tribune learned that there were a total of 59 nominations received for this year's election for all positions, of which 14 submitted applications based on their nominations and were assessed by the organization. Only five met the eligibility requirements for the election.

Beginning this school year, a higher GPA criterion for all elected student leaders was implemented—from the previous cumulative GPA requirement of 2.5 to 3.2 cumulative GPA. Once elected, the student leader should maintain a 3.0 GPA. Failure to maintain the required GPA will be cause for the leader's removal from office. Each student leader has a two-semester term of leadership.

Miah allegedly violated release conditions

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. Probation Officer Gregory F. Arriola yesterday submitted a petition requesting for the issuance of summons for one of the five suspects in a driver's license scam at the Department of Public Safety.

Arriola stated in his petition that Mohammad Jahangir Miah, who was placed under pretrial release supervision by U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge John A. Houston on Sept. 13, violated his pretrial release conditions.

The probation officer also requested for a hearing to be set wherein the defendant be held to answer or show cause why his bail should not be revoked or modified.

Miah, an auto shop owner accused of conspiring with four others in the scam, admitted to violating his bail conditions when he was found in possession of marijuana on May 25 when a detective found it in Miah's room during a search at his house.

On July 16, Miah was arrested at a residence in As Lito for disturbing the peace and contempt. He was released from the Department of Corrections after two days.

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Inos, Kilili explore solutions to pension fund's woes

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos and CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan have started exploratory talks on alternative solutions for the troubled Retirement Fund pension program to fend off its projected demise in three years' time.

Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* that his meeting with Inos lasted two hours on Tuesday morning, solely focused on issues surrounding the pension program's woes.

Although no concrete plans were reached, Sablan assured the continuous collaboration of his office with the Fitial administration in finding a solution to the Fund's problems.

Inos

Sablan

Sablan, in brief remarks at the Public School System's meet-and-greet with parent leaders on Tuesday, emphasized that the CNMI has to make a lot of decision on its own regarding the pension program before it appeals for federal assistance.

This early, however, the congressman warned that Congress will not bail out floundering pension programs, as shown by what's happening with similar programs in other states.

Sablan said he has also started exploring federal grants that may help save the CNMI's pension program.

He described the Fund's current situation—where active members continue to contribute their share—"as obviously not working and is not going to work."

"Right now, you [government employees] are throwing your money into a program that you don't see the returns. So why don't we ask those people who are active members to take their money and put it instead into a program that they know, when they need it most, they can get something?" he told the crowd of about a hundred parent-leaders.

Sablan, however, said he has no position yet if he favors the cutting the benefits paid to members, saying the idea is just one of the scenarios presented by the Fund's consultant.

Buck Consultants earlier discussed with the administration, Fund officials, and lawmakers scenarios that will help save the pension plan and these include reduction of members' benefits from 25 percent to 50 percent on top of eliminating the cost of living allowance and future disability members, in addition to remittance from the government.

Today, Sablan is expected to attend the general meeting called for by Commonwealth Retirees Association to adopt positions on several issues about the pension system.

As of Aug. 31, the Fund's portfolio was valued at $278.594 million—an amount projected to last only up to 2015 to pay for members' pensions and benefits.

Matson cuts fuel surcharge rate

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Matson Navigation Co., one of the nation's top logistics and transportation service providers, has reduced its fuel surcharge by three percentage points effective Sept. 25.

The company announced in a statement that it will cut fuel surcharge from 47 percent to 44 percent for its CNMI, Guam, and Micronesia service, and from 45.5 percent to 42.5 percent for its Hawaii service due to the recent drop in bunker fuel prices.

This is the second time that Matson has adjusted its fuel surcharge rate. Last Aug. 19, Matson announced that it will lower its fuel surcharge by two percentage points effective Aug. 28.

The two adjustments resulted to a total of five percentage points in fuel surcharge reduction.

Matson senior vice president for ocean services Dave Hoppes said in a statement that they are pleased to be able to pass along the second consecutive decrease, which represents a reduction in shipping costs ranging from $90 to $150 per container for most customers.

He said sustained high fuel prices have made this year "a very challenging year for many businesses."

"Transportation companies have been particularly hard hit, with fuel consumption an unavoidable and significant component of operating costs," Hoppes said. "In addition, the cost of bunker fuel, which is the type of fuel consumed by most ocean carriers, rose faster over the past year than crude oil and has been slower in experiencing any declines in prices. We are encouraged by the recent moderation of bunker fuel costs, allowing us to make this second decrease. Matson has made a practice of giving 30 days notice for upward rate adjustments, but as with previous decreases, we are passing on this downward adjustment to our customers as soon as possible. We will continue to monitor fuel costs and adjust the surcharge accordingly."

Horizon Lines of Guam has yet to reflect Matson's recent three-percentage point decrease.

Its last fuel adjustment factor decrease in Micronesia was effective Aug. 28, when it reduced its rate by two percentage points or from 49 percent to 47 percent.

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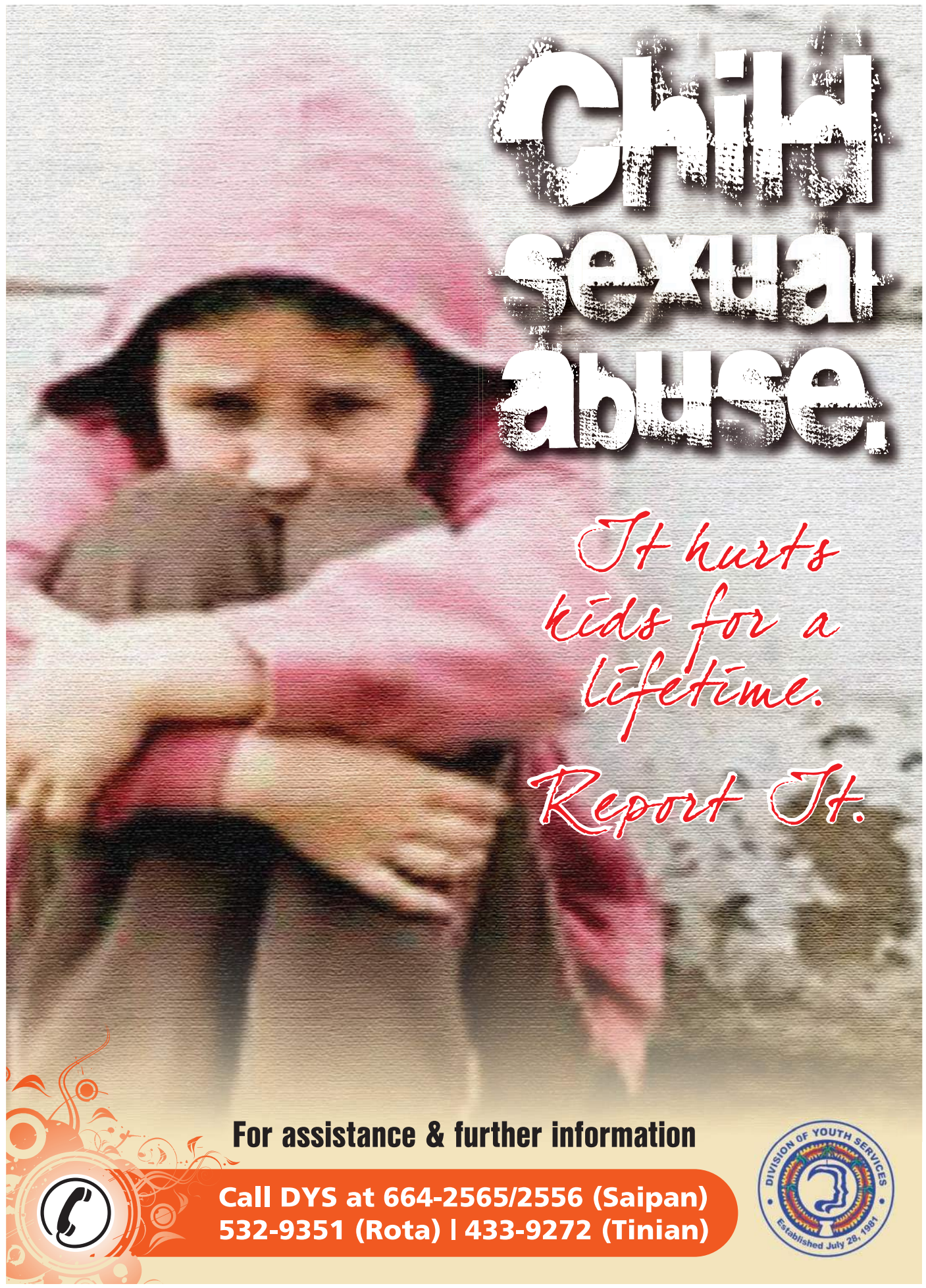
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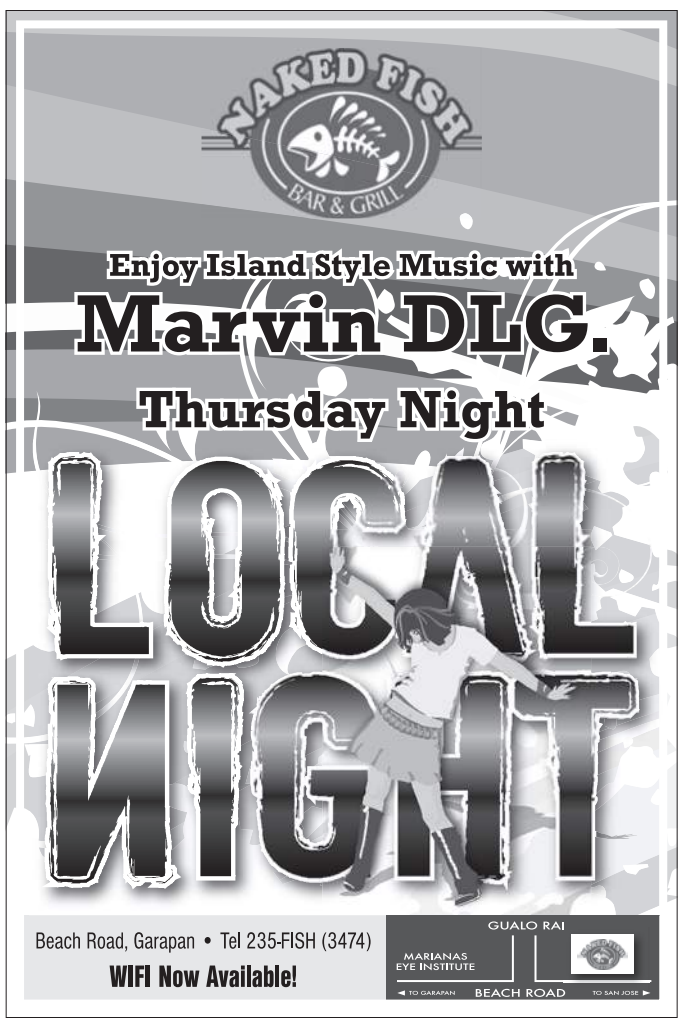

Travel restrictions, application questions as USCIS wraps up outreach

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will wrap up its outreach program on the transitional worker rule today by having an informational table at the Garapan Street Market from 5pm to 8pm, even as employers and employees continue to ask questions about the Commonwealth-only worker status application, travel restrictions, and related issues.

At a public session yesterday morning at the American Memorial Park indoor auditorium, USCIS district director David Gulick answered more questions from the audience that included the CW application process.

One of the audience members asked whether only the owner of the business can file a CW petition. Gulick said anyone authorized by the company to file the petition can do so.

Gulick said it doesn't matter whether the owner is outside of the CNMI as long as the business or company is in the CNMI.

The USCIS official also answered several questions about employers' filing for multiple workers on one Form I-129CW.

In general, an employer can file for multiple workers on one I-129CW if the workers have the same job, the same location and the same duration of employment.

Ernie Lacorte, chief financial officer at Seventh-Day Adventist Clinic, said he attended three of USCIS' outreach sessions, wherein most of his questions were answered.

"I'm glad I attended more than one sessions because everyday, a situation arises that need new answers. These sessions have been very helpful and informative. I just wish those people who were not able to attend would ask questions to persons who are experts, and not just anyone they know," said Lacorte.

Travel restrictions

USCIS regional media manager Marie Therese Sebrechts clarified that CW-1 and CW-2 classifications are a special classification restricted to the CNMI and were never designated to allow for travel to another part of the United States.

The Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008, the law that placed CNMI immigration under federal control, specifically states that the status is only valid in the CNMI.

If the travel to Guam or the United States is for a CW-1 or CW-2 beneficiaries' vacation, USCIS is still working with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection to determine whether or not travel will be possible on a tourist visa (B1/B2).

However, she reiterated that if a CW-1 returns to the CNMI, he/she must enter on a CW-1 visa in order to maintain their ability to work.

"So, if they traveled somewhere else in the United States on a B visa, they would have to return to the CNMI directly from a foreign location," she added.

Sebrechts said those with a pending CW petition "would need advance parole in order to return or approval of CW-1 and the corresponding CW Visa in order to return" to the CNMI.

She said a proof of a CW petition or filing is not enough to return to the CNMI.

"They would need advance parole or, if the CW-1 was approved, the corresponding CW visa," she said.

CHAMBER'S

From Page 1

can still obtain a copy for their own purposes from the Chamber for $500.

Of the 452 survey forms distributed, 218 or nearly 50 percent were returned.

In an e-mail interview, Pierce said many firms did not participate because they were not going to ever apply for H1B visas for their employees.

The Chamber contracted the Guam Employers Council to conduct the "2011 Survey of Wages, Salaries and Benefits" among specified jobs and organizations in the CNMI.

In a separate statement yesterday, the Chamber said that hard copies will be printed and available at the Chamber office in Garapan starting Monday.

Those companies and organizations that completed their surveys will receive the wage and salary summary report, a list of organizations participating in the wage and salary survey, and a document titled "Methods and Procedures of the Survey."

Those that did not participate in the survey can obtain a copy from the Chamber if they pay $500.

"Those copyright restrictions would apply, also, to any company or organization not participating, but would allow the company to use the Summary Report for applications for H-1B worker visas in the future, as well as utilizing the surveys for other purposes," the Chamber said.

Nearly 50 percent of those given survey forms responded completely.

The survey responses represented over 8,675 employees in over 408 different job classifications in the private and public sector.

Job classifications were listed under the Standard Occupational Classifications as recommended by the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Foreign Labor Certification.

Chamber president Douglas Brennan, in a statement, said the Chamber "believes this survey report represents the majority of those employers who would apply for many of their employees fitting into specialized and professional jobs classifications where H-1B work visas will be their best available option now under the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service's authority."

The largest business organization with some 150 members said employers now have an option besides accepting the prevailing wage rates of Guam, Hawaii, and the U.S. mainland for their H-1B visa applications, "where up until next week, there would have been no other choice for those submitting those petitions."

Brennan thanked all those organizations that participated, especially the CNMI government "for its cooperative effort at getting their agencies and departments in the Executive Branch to participate."

The CNMI government will receive their copies of the report in a requested ceremony on Oct. 6 at the Governor's Office on Capital Hill.

WAGE

From Page 1

ton, D.C.] was for, as far as I'm concerned. The 2012 [increase] is already law," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

If not for a law that Obama signed in October 2010 postponing the minimum wage increase in September 2011, the CNMI's minimum wage should have been $5.55 an hour by now. The same law says the minimum wage hike will resume in September 2012.

A 2007 federal law requires a yearly 50-cent increase in the CNMI's and American Samoa's minimum wage until it reaches the federal wage floor of $7.25 an hour.

Had the CNMI done what it was supposed to do within five years after it became a Commonwealth in 1978, it wouldn't be catching up with Guam and the rest of the United States in terms of the minimum wage, said Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan) yesterday.

"With all due respect to previous lawmakers, they introduced bills or resolutions to suspend minimum wage increases. This issue of increasing the minimum wage has been going on for a long time. Now that a federal law requires it, we should now follow it because we didn't do anything by ourselves since at least 1983," Palacios said.

He said the CNMI government, as well as the private sector, had their faults.

"It's just very unfortunate that the economy got worse. But if we don't do it now, we will again be left behind. I just wish Kilili will ask the Obama administration for federal help to the CNMI just like other states," he added.

Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan) said it's a "no-brainer" that the cost of living on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota is high compared to the rest of the United States so the CNMI needs to increase its minimum wage that will allow its population to earn a decent wage.

But at the same time, he said employers should expect better performance from their employees.

"We should not raise our minimum wage to reward laziness," he said.

Yumul said if an employer can have only three hardworking employees, then that employer won't have any difficulty paying higher minimum wages rather than hiring five employees, some of whom are not productive.

House floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan) said he supports anything that will help people and households.

"However, there is a delicate balance between helping employees and hurting businesses," he said. "If a business will continue to remain open with the increase in wages of its employees and not pass the added costs to the consumers, I am in favor of that."

Rep. Fred Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) said his support of a wage increase in 2012 depends on the state of the economy.

"In general, minimum wage would follow economic growth as in the U.S. where ample time has been made for economic growth and the growth of their minimum wage," he said.

Besides Interior's Babauta, those who testified at the hearing of the U.S. House Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Areas to request further postponement of the minimum wage increase were businessman Jim Arenovski and American Samoa Gov. Togiola Tulafono.

The Fitial administration said it shares the concerns of the business community, but has yet to state whether it will push for further postponement in 2012 or not.

'Submerged lands'

The CNMI delegate will be going back to Washington, D.C. on Sunday in time for the U.S. House session on Monday wherein his HR 670 will be up for action.

Sablan said he hopes his bill will pass the House just like the last time, until one of the senators blocked it and released it only when action was no longer possible.

Approval of the bill means the CNMI will be given control over submerged lands three miles out from its shores.

Salisbury graduates from FBI National Academy

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congresswoman Bordallo congratulates William Salisbury on his graduation from the FBI National Academy. From left to right are: FBI Director Robert Mueller, William Salisbury, Congresswoman Bordallo, Rita Balajadia Salisbury, and Lourdes Balajadia Barrett.

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo recently attended the 246th commencement exercise of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia. William Salisbury, from the Office of the Attorney General of Guam, graduated from the program along with more than 250 law enforcement personnel from federal, state, and local jurisdictions throughout the United States and 20 countries.

The FBI National Academy is a professional course of study for U.S. and international law enforcement leaders that serves to improve the administration of justice in police departments and agencies in the United States and globally and to raise law enforcement standards, knowledge, and cooperation worldwide. Its mission is "to support, promote, and enhance the personal and professional development of law enforcement leaders by preparing them for complex, dynamic, and contemporary challenges through innovative techniques, facilitating excellence in education and research, and forging partnerships throughout the world."

"I congratulate William Salisbury on his graduation from the FBI National Academy," said Bordallo. "I am confident that he will use the knowledge and skills he obtained at the FBI Academy to improve the capabilities of the Attorney General's Office as well as law enforcement in Guam." ***(PR)***

CUC

From Page 1

possible time. It asked the commission to consider adopting a new LEAC rate for November 2011 through March 2012. Georgetown said it will come up with an expedited report by Oct. 12, with a response from CUC, and the commission can then make a determination on the matter.

CUC opposes the short period recommended by Georgetown, saying it needs more time to thoroughly review the data.

"First, CUC believes that the LEAC calculation should be modified. Second, even if the commission would like the LEAC calculated immediately before a determination of its possible modification is made, CUC is entitled to put together the LEAC calculation itself, and asks that it be able to do so. CUC believes that under basic principles of regulation, the operating utility is entitled to prepare its own cost and LEAC calculation," states CUC general counsel Deborah E. Fisher in her report to the commission.

According to Fisher, even if Georgetown is tasked with putting together the LEAC calculation, CUC's rate consultant—economist.com—has indicated that it would take three weeks to adequately review a LEAC recalculation.

Citing past LEAC calculations, she said it is clear that both parties need more than one week to adequately review the complicated model and there is no suggestion that the LEAC calculation would be any different from past LEAC calculations.

CUC, she said, does not believe that the proper calculation of CUC's fuel charges should continue to be the LEAC.

Georgetown had recommended the creation of a process for changing the LEAC rate to reflect current world fuel oil market conditions. It believes that CUC is in an over-recovery situation now and between May 2010 and November 2010. Georgetown cautions CPUC that while fuel oil prices have the most impact on the LEAC rate, there are other factors that influence the under- or over-recovery such as generation efficiency and line losses. These factors will need to be analyzed before the exact impact any over- or under-recovery can be quantified.

The commission was supposed to discuss Georgetown's status report in yesterday's meeting but commissioner Viola Alepuyo and newly installed commissioner Joaquin Manglona voted for a recess until Oct. 12 to give Manglona enough time to review the documents before the commission.

CUC acting executive director Alan Fletcher and Fisher, who were present in yesterday's meeting, were elated with the commission's decision. In an interview after the meeting, Fletcher said that CUC has yet to formulate a response to the Georgetown status report as the utility agency was only told about the report on Monday.

CUC also needs to wait for their financial expert, CUC chief financial officer Charles Warren, and rate consultant in order to come up with a response. Warren and an economist.com expert are expected to be on island this week.

$2.5M baccarat winner at the Tinian Dynasty casino

» China's Guangdong Province tourism head meets with Dynasty, CNMI senators

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

People do win in a casino, and that's exactly what happened with a group who tried their luck and became some $2.5 million richer at Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino.

Dynasty management confirmed the winning yesterday, adding that the amount has been won at a baccarat tournament over the last few weeks. Baccarat is a card game.

Because of safety and security concerns, Dynasty management declined to provide more information about the winners.

The Dynasty management said that back in 2000, they had a $3-million winner. Six or seven years ago, there was another $3 million winner.

"Miracles do happen at a casino. People do win in a casino," the management said.

Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian), when asked for comment, said whoever won the $2.5 million must be a lucky person or persons.

"I hope people will be encouraged to play at Dynasty, whether tourists or from here in the CNMI," he said.

Promoting CNMI in Guangdong Province

In other news, senators and Tinian Dynasty executives met yesterday with the chairman of China's Tourism Administration of Guangdong Province, Yang Rongsen.

Yang's visit is expected to boost arrivals from Guangdong Province to the CNMI. The CNMI has charter flights from Guangdong.

Tom Liu, general manager of Dynasty, said for a tourism official of Yang's stature to personally visit the CNMI and help promote the CNMI as a tourist destination among Guangdong Province residents is great news for the islands.

Yang will also be visiting Saipan.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), who was on Tinian yesterday along with six other senators, said that Guangdong Province has a population of 100 million and even if only a portion of that market could be tapped by the CNMI, that will greatly help the islands' tourism industry.

Senators also met with Dynasty chair Michael Kwan, who senators said presented the casino's development plans about Dynasty.

"We're very pleased with the meeting with Mr. Yang and Mr. Kwan and other Dynasty officials. We also look forward to more charter flights from Guangdong Province," he said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Senators led by Senate President Paul Manglona, fifth from right, and Tinian Dynasty executives led by chairman Michael Kwan, second from left, pose with the chairman of China's Tourism Administration of Guangdong Province, Yang Rongsen, fifth from left.

CUC sets 3-hour power outage on Sat.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has scheduled a three-hour power interruption for Saturday, Oct.1, 2011, lasting from 8:30am to 1130am for the Isley Field, Commonwealth Ports Authority grounds, As Perdido, and Lower Dandan areas.

The purpose of this interruption is to install isolation cutouts on power poles near the Isley Field water wells. These installations will allow the power crews to change out the transformers next week. The transformer change-out will minimize future power interruptions at the Saipan International Airport.

Because of the scale of the work that will be performed, travelers are advised to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the affected areas. CUC apologizes, in advance, for any inconvenience resulting from these projects and the power interruption. ***(CUC)***

PSS using assertive discipline to cope with large class sizes

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Assertive discipline.

That's how the Public School System is coping with the record number of students it has this school year, according to Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan.

Sablan disclosed that PSS has about 11,300 students in all schools on three islands as of last week, which is a 4- to 5-percent increase from last school year's.

That has resulted in larger class sizes, particularly in big schools such as Marianas High School and Hopwood Junior High School, where classroom sizes range up to 32 students for every teacher. The bigger classes are evident in 4th to 12th grades.

Sablan said the increased class size is a direct result of the limited budget and resources allotted for PSS this year. Since PSS cannot hire more teachers, it will have to do with bigger class sizes, she said.

The local government has allocated just $30 million for PSS in fiscal year 2012. To cope with the lower budget, PSS restructured and reduced its personnel count to protect the classroom teacher positions.

Sablan

That also means that classroom teachers are more challenged on how they will ensure that learning continues to take place even in the bigger schools. That's where the assertive discipline approach comes in.

Saipan Tribune learned that assertive discipline is an approach to classroom management that involves a high level of teacher control in the class. This approach means that teachers must establish rules and directions that clearly define the limits of acceptable and unacceptable student behavior, teach these rules and directions, and ask for assistance from parents and/or administrators when support is needed in handling the behavior of students. The underlying goal of assertive discipline is to allow teachers to engage students in the learning process uninterrupted by students' misbehavior, based on studies.

"Prior to the opening of the school year, we've been working with our principals on their staffing patterns and we have given them enough advisories on the potential shortfall of our budget for next fiscal year. As early as February, our teachers have been informed that when they come back to school they may have bigger class sizes, or more than 26 students per classroom. So one of the things that we worked with our principals this summer was really on assertive discipline and classroom management [to effectively handle bigger classes]," Sablan said.

In addition, she said a lot of instructional strategies have also been implemented to help students become engaged in classroom instruction. "I am hoping that our teachers are implementing those things," she said.

Sablan hopes that the current situation of large class sizes is temporary and vowed to look for other ways to address this concern.

Marianas High School has over 1,500 enrollees this school year, a big jump from last year's, according to acting principal Cherlyn Cabrera. With only 47 classroom teachers, the school's teacher-to-student ratio is at 1:33—way higher than the 28 students allowed for secondary school.

Saipan Southern High School has over 900 enrollees and has a teacher-to-student ratio of 1:29.

Hopwood Junior High School's enrollment is at 1,280; its teacher-to-student ratio is 1:32.

ADDITIONAL FLIGHTS
Gov. Benigno R. Fitial gives a speech at the 2011 Shanghai-Saipan Additional Flight Launch Party in Shanghai, China, giving almost 100 travel agents updates and views of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. Dynasty Holiday and Century Tours, the biggest market players of the Marianas Visitors Authority in China, jointly announced at the party that two more direct flights will be launched from Shanghai to Saipan starting Nov. 2,2011. Some 20 key media outlets in Shanghai and over 90 industry friends were invited to the party. Marian Aldan-Pierce, MVA board chairperson; Joong Kim, general manager of Lao Lao Bay Golf Resort; and Richard Zhou, vice president of DFS China, also attended.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

YOU and Your CHILD
Parenting a little one is challenging at times but always
EXCITING, FUN and REWARDING.
You know your child BETTER than anyone else.
You know what makes your child
happy, sad, comfortable, scared, excited, anxious, calm.
You know what your child is interested in.
You know what your child needs.
Being "INVOLVED" is when you:
SING SONGS with your child
Make time to LISTEN
TALK to your child
PLAY baby games
READ a picture book
MASSAGE your child
Have family meals TOGETHER
Take WALKS with your child
Go to the BEACH
Always
CELEBRATE
your child's
ACCOMPLISHMENTS,
no matter how small they seem to be.
REMEMBER
YOU are your child's SUPER HERO!
A gentle hug, a tender kiss, an encouraging smile...
...Sometimes that's all it takes.
BIG STEPS FOR LITTLE FEET
EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICE SYSTEM
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM AND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Printing made possible by the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems grant.
Supported in part by project H25MC06112 from the MCHB (Title V, Social Security Act), HRSA, DHHS.

9 students to head for Japan for exchange program

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Nine students will have the chance to learn more about the Japanese culture through an exchange program between the Saipan Mayor's Office and the International Youth Association of Japan KSKK.

Executive secretary Vinycia Seman of the Saipan Mayor's Office said she and staffer James Villagomez will serve as chaperones for the nine students who are between third to 12th graders.

The students are currently enrolled at Garapan Elementary School, Grace Christian Academy, Mount Carmel School, Saipan Southern High School, and Tinian Grace Christian Academy.

Seman said the students were able to meet all the requirements, which included having a valid U.S. passport that does not expire within six months while in Japan; paying for a non-refundable ticket fare of $546.06 on Sept. 16; travel insurance; student clearance form filled out and approved by teachers and counselor; and a 2.75 grade point average.

According to Seman, about half of the students will be traveling to Japan for the first time. They will be there from Oct. 6 to 12.

All students and chaperones will be staying with 10 host families residing in Chiba, Ibaraki, and Tokyo cities from Oct. 8 to 10.

"I hope that they will be able to appreciate the Japanese culture more and be open to try new things such as different food and activities that their [host] families prepared for them," Seman told *Saipan Tribune*.

Seman said the group will visit the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Building Observatories, Ueno Zoo, Tokyo Disneyland, and the Shinjuku shopping district.

Sentencing of illegal labor contractor moved to Friday

U.S. Attorney for Guam and CNMI Districts Alicia A.G. Limtiaco filed yesterday a stipulation to continue the sentencing hearing for the case of a female Chinese national who pleaded guilty to a count of foreign labor contracting fraud conspiracy as part of a plea deal.

The sentencing hearing for Li Hua will continue from Sept. 29 to Sept. 30 at 1:30pm based on the stipulation signed by Assistant U.S. Attorney Kirk Schuler and Hua's court-appointed counsel, Bruce Berline.

The stipulation stated that both parties would like more time to review the final pre-sentence investigation, which was filed on Tuesday, and prepare for the hearing.

Hua, who was arrested by Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents at the Saipan International Airport as she was leaving for China on June 5, was allegedly responsible for recruiting six persons from China to come to the CNMI to unlawfully work while paroled in as tourists.

ICE agents also arrested another defendant, Honglian Cheng, who is allegedly responsible for bringing the six to Saipan. She was arrested also at the airport as she was leaving for China on June 3. ***(Clarissa V. David)***

Fund officials cite ambiguities, problems with another bill

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After the enactment of the controversial Beneficiaries' Derivative Act, the troubled NMI Retirement Fund is now pleading with the Legislature to take into consideration its input and concerns before passing another bill that will impact the Fund's precarious fiscal health.

House Bill 17-226 proposes to allow all non-retired members of the pension fund to withdraw their contributions without severance of employment or penalties.

Fund administrator Richard Villagomez on Monday wrote House Speaker Eliceo Cabrera (R-Saipan), saying the bill has "ambiguities and problems" that need to be rectified.

He said the bill has merits to the extent it attempts to protect the contributions of defined benefit plan members that have contributed into the Fund and have not yet retired. However, it does not provide any safety net or solutions for those who are now retired, receiving benefits, or will retire in the future.

As of Aug. 31, 2011 the value of pension portfolio is $278.598 million. If the bill becomes law, the Fund will be left with only $175.3 million—after deducting the projected $103.288 million withdrawals allowed by the measure—for retirees that are currently receiving their pension. Villagomez said the bill will allow 2,996 active members to withdraw their employee contributions, and at the same time about 2,940 members receiving benefits as retirees, surviving spouses, and surviving children will be left with only a little over $175 million to support their accrued benefits. The cost of annual benefits alone based on a 2009 valuation report is $63 million and this is expected to be higher if others retire or get a refund.

Also, although the bill intends to eliminate any and all future liabilities of the Fund from active members by allowing them to withdraw, it does not address the current liabilities owed to those that are retired or receiving benefits.

"In its current form, the bill removes the funding mechanism for current contributions. Unless an alternate funding mechanism is put in place, the bill will diminish and impair the benefits of retirees and their surviving spouse and/or children, contrary to the constitutional protection of those benefits," said Villagomez.

He said the current funding mechanism established by Public Law 6-17 is based on a "percentage of payroll" of active employees who are members of the DB plan and this mechanism became an issue when the defined contribution plan was created in 2007 and no new members were allowed in the DB plan.

The new bill, he said, immediately and completely makes obsolete the "percentage of payroll" funding mechanism if all DB plan members are given the option to refund or convert to DC plan.

"The new funding mechanism must be in place for the Fund to continue payments to approximately 2,940 retirees and beneficiaries and to ensure we respect and uphold the constitutional protection of accrued benefits," added Villagomez.

The administrator provided the House recommendations to address its concerns and problems. Among these is the establishment of transitional and permanent funding mechanisms.

The Fund official also asked for lawmakers' consideration in providing them an opportunity to present their concerns before acting on the bill.

Only Coast Guard Medal of Honor recipient remembered

APRA HARBOR, Guam—This week marks the 69th anniversary of the death of Signalman First Class Douglas Munro, the Coast Guard's only Medal of Honor recipient who gave his life protecting 500 U.S. Marines in World War II.

The award was presented posthumously by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to Munro's parents, Edith and James Munro, at the White House in May 1943.

The citation reads: "For the extraordinary heroism and conspicuous gallantry in action above and beyond the call of duty as Officer-in-Charge of a group of Higgins boats, engaged in the evacuation of a battalion of Marines trapped by enemy Japanese forces at Point Cruz, Guadalcanal, on Sept. 27, 1942. After making preliminary plans for the evacuation of nearly 500 beleaguered Marines, Munro, under constant risk of his life, daringly led five of his small craft toward the shore. As he closed the beach, he signaled the others to land, and then in order to draw the enemy's fire and protect the heavily loaded boats, he valiantly placed his craft with its two small guns as a shield between the beachhead and the Japanese. When the perilous task of evacuation was nearly completed, Munro was killed by enemy fire, but his crew, two of whom were wounded, carried on until the last boat had loaded and cleared the beach. By his devotion to duty, he and his courageous comrades undoubtedly saved the lives of many who otherwise would have perished in defense of our country."

In honor of Munro's legacy, the U.S. Coast Guard commissioned a high endurance cutter in his name. Coast Guard cutter *Munro* celebrates its 40th anniversary this week and is underway in the Northern Pacific to commemorate this significant event in Coast Guard history.

Munro's final words were, "Did they make it off?" ascertaining if all of the Marines pinned down on the beaches Guadalcanal were safely rescued. A wreath, with the signatures of all current crewmembers and a plaque that reads, "Yes they did," in answer to his final question will be laid in the Pacific. ***(USCG)***

ENROLL FOR COURSES AT NMTI

Visit the Northern Marianas Trades Institute and enroll in courses beginning now. All you need to enroll is a desire to learn.

Jobs are available for Qualified Students!

Select one of the many courses, from Construction Core, Carpentry, Electrical, Culinary Arts, Auto Mechanic, and our new Hotel and Restuarant Program. More Trades coming soon.

NMC's Adult Basic Education is also being offered to non-high school graduates, so get your high school diploma while learning new skills to last a lifetime.

Contact our friendly staff for details Northen Marianas Trade Institute
235-6684 / 322-6684 (after hours 989-5376)

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
2011-CDA-06-RFP

LOAN UNDERWRITER

The Commonwealth Development Authority is soliciting competitive proposals from qualified firms, companies, agencies and/or persons to provide the services of a loan underwriter experienced in all aspects of the underwriting process, to provide independent contractual services for the CDA in the implementation of the State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) Loan Guaranty and Loan Participation Programs. This procurement is being conducted pursuant to CNMI Procurement Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 70-30.3, specifically § 70-30.3-235).

The CDA on behalf of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) has applied for State Small Business Credit Initiative funds in the amount of $13,168,350 for the Loan Participation and Loan Guaranty Programs. Programs are subject to CDA and lender criteria as well as SSBCI guidelines.

The purpose of the programs is to provide businesses with high growth and job creation potential that will diversify and strengthen the local economy. It encourages expansion of existing and emerging new industries to expand economic opportunity to all in the community.

The Program targets the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

CDA encourages the leveraging of new private investment in the form of fixed asset and working capital investment. The Program provides loan guaranty and participation of up to $5 million to businesses at interest rates and loan maturities that encourage business development and facilitate reinvestment while providing for the recapitalization and growth of fund. The program perpetuates a positive and proactive business climate that encourages the retention and expansion of existing businesses and helps to attract desirable new businesses. The Program objective is to leverage the SSBCI funding ten times (10X) with private financing.

The guidelines and specifications for this RFP may be picked up at the Commonwealth Development Authority, Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950 during normal working hours from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Holidays, or from the Office of Procurement and Supply in Lower Base.

Respectfully

/s/ MANUEL A. SABLAN
Executive Director

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

Join us this SATURDAY morning, OCTOBER 01, for a fun-filled walk with PSS!
LIVE HEALTHY:
Life Walk
with
PSS
Registration Information:
Saipan: 5:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. – 13 Fisherman Pavilion
Tinian: 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. – Tachog'na Beach
Rota: 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. – Joaquin M. Ogo Softball Field

Island Trybe heads home with Marianas shows

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
From left, B.O.I. (Matthew Quitugua), Y.D. (David Quitugua), and Jay Sway.

Hailing from Tacoma, Washington with roots in the Marianas and marinating the music industry with a new refreshing sound blending hip-hop, reggae, and R&B is Island Trybe.

Established in 1996 and pushing their music since, Island Trybe has been making a lot of noise in the U.S. mainland, headlining their own shows and performing with some of the industry's big headliners. Being raised in the U.S. mainland and rooted in the islands automatically sets Island Trybe apart from the rest of the pack.

Island Trybe has brought recognition to the people of the Marianas in the U.S. mainland, having released four albums over the years and doing 49 performances in 2009 alone (47 throughout the state of Washington, one in Las Vegas, NV and one in Temecula, CA). The official music video of their hit single *Blow Ya Mynd*, which was released in February this year, has received over 28,000 views on the popular video-sharing website, YouTube. If that still doesn't ring a bell, their latest hit single, *Skankin'*, which was officially released this August, has been airing on Power99 (99.5FM) and has been the most requested song on Power99.

After being away from the islands for almost a decade, the Island Trybe brothers, Y.D. (David Quitugua) and B.O.I. (Matthew Quitugua) is on a journey back home. Their journey starts in Guam as they are scheduled to perform at Power98's Facebook Birthday Party "Friends with Benefits" on Friday, Sept. 30, 2011, at The Globe Ultra Lounge in Tumon, Guam.

Soon after, Island Trybe will grace the Commonwealth as Budweiser/MARPAC, Salbahe' Brand, Betelnut Radio, and United Nesia present "United Nesia Fest: Coming Home Tour" and will headline Island Trybe as they perform live on Saipan. Also performing is Tacoma, Washington's Jay Sway, along with an array of Saipan's very own: Fatal Hitz, RoccJuan (who is an original member of Island Trybe), Latte Vibes, 6se7nh0, and Tom Basa Jr. Also in the mix is Tacoma, Washington's DJ Boboy and Saipan's DJ Big Ken Camacho.

Hosted by "The Fina Sisu Mestisu" LJ Castro, *United Nesia Fest: Coming Home Tour* is going live on Saturday, Oct. 8, 2011, at The Pool Bar, Pacific Islands Club, Saipan and all the action starts at 6pm through 10pm. Tickets are on sale and is available at Tha Trapp (Middle Road, Gualo Rai) and Boarderline Surf & Skate (Hafa Adai Shopping Center, Garapan). For $12, you get in with one free drink and a chance to win prizes from Docomo Pacific, Tha Trapp, and Boarderline Surf & Skate.

The show is sponsored by Budweiser/MARPAC, Salbahe' Brand, Betelnut Radio, United Nesia, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Docomo Pacific, Tha Trapp, Power99 (99.5FM), Boarderline Surf & Skate, G.I.G Discotheque, Trybe Fam Entertainment, KMMNWLTH Stars & Stones, eXpose Thyself Entertainment, Lae-Z Boi Productions, disFUNKshünal LaFamilia, Chow It Gear, Kaduku Clothing, Island Sons Ink, Chamorro Boy 671, Positive Island Vibrations, Calibis Clothing, and GuamStyle. ***(PR)***

Navy prepares Environmental Impact Statement

The U.S. Navy is preparing an EIS/OEIS (Environmental Impact Statement) on behalf of the U.S. military to evaluate the potential environmental effects from proposed military readiness training and testing activities in the Mariana Islands Training and Testing (MITT) Study Area.

Some of the proposed activities may include the use of active sonar and explosives. The proposed plan is to conduct military readiness training and research, development, testing, and evaluation activities ("training and testing activities") within the Mariana Islands Training and Testing Study Area.

The MITT Study Area is comprised of air, land, and sea space and includes the existing Mariana Islands Range Complex, additional areas on the high seas and a transit corridor where training and testing activities may occur.

For more information, visit www.mitt-eis.com**.** ***(PR)***

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
P.O. Box 501521
Navy Hill – Bldg. N2
Saipan, MP 96950
Email: nmidir@ovrgov.net
Website: www.ovrgov.net
"Together We Can Build A Future"

ANNOUNCEMENT

The National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) proclamation ceremony is scheduled this Friday, September 30, 2011 at 10:00 am at the Governor's Conference Room.

Stakeholders, advocates, employers and persons with disabilities, please join us at this important occasion.

For more information please call 322-6537/8 (voice) or 322-6449 (TTY).

Olomwaay, Si Yu'us Ma'ase & Thank You.

Publication of this notice is paid for by federal funds made possible by the United States Department of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS).

Notice of Zoning Board Meeting
The regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Thursday, October 6, 2011 at 5:00 PM, Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten DanDan Commercial Bldg., Saipan

A. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of September 1, 2011 minutes
5. Public Comments (not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)

B. Public Hearings
1. Conditional Use Application 2011-1800: Mr. Christopher A. Torres from MEC, LLC is requesting to construct a warehouse structure on lot 380 B New-7-1-2 for warehouse and wholesale operations. This area is located between Tokcha Avenue, Tupak Street, and Texas road in Susupe.
2. Conditional Use Application #2011-1828: Mr. Li Xiang Ming from An Manufacturing is proposing to manufacture hollow blocks on lot 550New-8-R1. This area is located along Afetnas Road, San Antonio.
3. Rezone Application #2011-1648: Mr. Xiong Hui is requesting to rezone lot E.A. 883-1 from "Rural" to "Industrial", for the storage of construction materials and equipments and to operate a vehicle repair shop. This area is located at the former site of Black Micro Corporation in Kannat Tabla, adjacent to the CMS Quarry.

C. Communications/ Reports
D. Old Business
1. None

E. New Business.
1. Update on SZL text amendments
2. Office operations report

F. Executive (Closed) Session
G. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact Therese T. Ogumoro, Acting Zoning Administrator, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Sept. 29, 1999

Opening of new schools might be delayed
The Public School System may have to delay the opening of two new schools if the government is forced to run a budget under continuing resolution next fiscal year, a top education official said yesterday. Esther Fleming, chairperson of the Board of Education, said PSS hopes to open the Sinapalo and Kagman elementary schools next school year. "Unless we're given additional funds on top of the budget level that we would be using based on continuing resolution, we might be forced the delay the opening of the two new schools in year 2001," Fleming said. The education agency's current budget is $37 million. It hopes to get a share of $42 million from the proposed $206 million Commonwealth budget for FY 2000.

DPS wants more police cars for Tinian
The Department of Public Safety is planning to provide two more police vehicles for the island-municipality of Tinian and carry out improvements in the detention center there. Despite limited budget, the department will try to look for funds to accommodate the request of Tinian local government for additional police cars. There are two police vehicles on Tinian right now but only one is in good condition to service the community. DPS Commissioner Charles W. Ingram met with local police officers on Tinian to discuss the problem. DPS turned over a 31 ft. boat to Tinian police force to augment its search operations. DPS is facing a problem with its patrol car operations for FY 2000 after the budget for car lease has been reduced from $1.1 million to just over $800,000.

Sept. 29, 2000

House bill dulls attraction of CNMI to lawyers
The Attorney General's Office has warned against legislation scrapping government housing benefits, saying the move will make it more difficult for the CNMI to hire and retain government lawyers from the U.S. mainland. Noting other jurisdictions offer attractive compensation package, it said even indigenous lawyers would be discouraged to join government service here without such perks. Assistant Attorney General Elliot A. Sattler presented the AGO's position in a testimony presented to the House Judiciary and Government Operations Committee which is reviewing HB 12-34 amending the government housing law.

CJPA awards 34 grants to agencies
A number of CNMI community organizations now have the means to start plans to institute various youth and family-oriented programs with the Criminal Justice Planning Agency Supervisory Council's recent approval of over 31 sub-grant applications to support their respective agenda. According to CJPA Executive Director Harry C. Blanco, the applications for funds available under the Fiscal Year 1999 Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Program and Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant amounted to some $409,746. He added the council has also awarded $161,220 to three sub-grant applications under the federal Victims of Crime Act Program covering Fiscal Years 1999 and 2000.

Sept. 29, 2002

EPA: Used oil must be shipped off-island
Used motor oil should be shipped off-island in the absence of a costly refinery that could recycle the waste for reuse, a visiting official of the Seattle-based U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region X said. Due to the absence of a refinery, there are more quantities of stored used oil on Saipan compared to levels at the U.S. mainland, said Calvin Terada, program manager and inspector of the EPA Region X's Tribal Underground Injection Control Program. The program regulates septic systems and other waste disposal systems that go to the ground. Used motor oil and wastewater are among common pollutants that contaminate groundwater.

Fennell gets immunity from lawsuits
Despite vigorous objections by litigants in the Bank of Saipan case, outgoing bank receiver Randall Fennell enjoyed the court's graces, with Superior Court Presiding Judge Edward Manibusan granting him full judicial immunity from future lawsuits that may be filed against him in connection with the receivership. At the same time, Manibusan ruled that the bank and the receivership shall indemnify Fennell for future claims that may be filed against him in connection with his actions as receiver. Before exonerating Fennell, however, the Calvo shareholders-Paul, Edward and Thomas-already expressed intent to challenge the court's decision.

Postal Service to honor living individuals on stamps

»Invites public to offer suggestions through social media

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Beginning next year, Americans will see acclaimed musicians, sports stars, writers, artists, and other nationally known figures on U.S. postage stamps—while they are still alive. The Postal Service is inviting the public to use social media to submit their ideas for individuals to honor.

The Postal Service is dropping a rule that currently requires an individual to have been deceased at least five years before being honored on a stamp. Under the new guidelines, living or recently deceased individuals will be eligible for commemoration on postage stamps.

"This change will enable us to pay tribute to individuals for their achievements while they are still alive to enjoy the honor," said Patrick Donahoe, Postmaster General. "These remarkable individuals—through their transformative achievements in their respective fields—have made enduring contributions to the United States of America. Honoring living individuals expands the interest in stamp topics and keeps our program timely, relevant and contemporary."

Stephen Kearney, manager, Stamp Services, said, "Engaging the public to offer their ideas is an innovative way to expand interest in stamps and the popular hobby of collecting them. We are inviting our customers to submit the top five living individuals they would like to see on stamps through *Facebook* and *Twitter*. As always, you can mail your suggestions to the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee, c/o Stamp Development, Room 3300, 475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Washington DC 20260-3501."

Stamp selection process

Each year, the Postmaster General's Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee—composed of individuals whose backgrounds reflect a wide range of educational, artistic, historical and professional expertise—receives as many as 40,000 suggestions for stamp subjects. The committee selects subjects of broad national interest for recommendation to the Postmaster General. Approximately 50 new subjects are recommended each year. Stamp selections are made with all postal customers in mind, not just stamp collectors.

2012 stamps previewed on social media

Using social media, the Postal Service began raising interest in stamp collecting by previewing select stamps from the 2012 commemorative program.

Customers can view the stamps on Facebook at *facebook.com/USPSStamps*, through *Twitter@USPSstamps* or on the website Beyond the Perf at *beyondtheperf.com/2012-preview*. Beyond the Perf is the Postal Service's online site for back stories on upcoming stamp subjects, first-day-of-issue events and other philatelic news. ***(USPS)***

Businessman, landowner settle court dispute

A businessman and a landowner have agreed to dismiss their complaint and counterclaim in federal court after reaching a settlement.

Businessman Ting Jian Tang, also known as Kevin Tang, and landowner Ignatia C. Aldan, through their respective lawyers, notified the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Tuesday about their agreement to dismiss with prejudice the court action.

Tang and Aldan agreed that they will bear their own attorneys' fees and court costs.

The two said the court shall retain jurisdiction to enforce their settlement agreement.

The terms of the settlement were not disclosed.

Tang had sued Aldan for allegedly defrauding him by making him remodel a bakery and restaurant in exchange for a lease of property that she actually had already leased to another investor.

Aldan, however, counter-sued Tang for breach of contract. She alleged that the businessman breached their agreement when he did not complete the scope of work in renovating the restaurant. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Judge transfers company's lawsuit against two firms to Guam

U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge William Q. Hayes has ordered the transfer of a company's lawsuit against two affiliated Guam corporations to Guam in the interest of justice.

Hayes ordered the U.S. District Court for the NMI's clerk of the court to transfer the lawsuit filed by Allied Marine Surveyors Limited to the District of Guam.

Allied Marine Surveyors Limited is suing International Corp. and Inter Bay Circle Marine Inc. for allegedly failing to pay $351,940.34 for marine-related services. The plaintiff asked the court to find the two companies liable to pay damages with interest and cost.

Allied Marine is engaged in marine surveying, marine risk management, underwater inspections, repairs, salvage operations, and related business activities. The company has provided marine related services to the defendants for about 20 years.

The lawsuit alleged that Inter Bay was the operator of a tugboat and three barges. International Bridge, a general construction company, allegedly made some payments to plaintiff for services provided to the vessels.

The defendants had asked for the transfer of the case to Guam, as that is where they reside and where Allied Marine alleges it performed some of the services at issue.

In his ruling, Hayes said it would be "time-consuming and justice-defeating" to require Allied Marine to refile its case in the District of Guam. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

CRIME OF THE WEEK

Wire theft near Obyan Beach

Crime Stoppers is seeking the community's assistance for information on a theft incident that occurred at a CUC water well located near Obyan Beach.

On Monday, Sept. 20, 2011, at about 10am, CUC employees discovered that the drop line connected to the water well was missing. The drop line was cut from the telephone pole and stolen.

It is estimated that the length of the copper wire is from 160 to 180 feet. The estimated value of the stolen copper wire (drop line) is over $1,500.

DPS and Crime Stoppers are seeking help from the public. Please contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous or use its website at www.nmicrimestoppers.com. Crime stoppers pays up to $1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. ***(Crime Stoppers)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy birthday to Frances Cruz! Enjoy your special day and we wish you many more birthdays to come. God bless. Love always, Katie girl, Joni, J.R., Julene, Jackie, and the rest of the family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Justine Calayo celebrated her 10th birthday on Sept. 24 at Shirley's Coffee Shop in Susupe.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to our grandpa, Luis Aldan. We always have a lot of fun whenever we're together…That's why I wish the time we share could last forever! With love and kisses from Lulu Boy, Chicha, VJ, Jodie, and Baby Kayden.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
MVA-RFP-12-2310

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

To Provide Local Public Relations and Media Services

Closing Date: October 24, 2011 Time: 2:00 p.m.

Submit sealed proposals to: The Division of Procurement & Supply
P.O. Box 10008
Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the scope of work and application for local preference at the **Marianas Visitors Authority** office between 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Thursday and 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. on Non-Austerity Fridays, except holidays or by visiting the **MVA** website at www.mymarianas.com.

/s/ HERMAN SABLAN
Director, P&S

/s/ PERRY P. TENORIO
Managing Director

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING
for
MEC, LLC

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for a Conditional Use Permit. Mr. Christopher A. Torres from MEC, LLC is requesting to construct a warehouse structure on lot 380 B New-7-1-2 for warehouse and wholesale operations. This area is located along Tokcha Avenue, just south of Joeten Warehouse in Susupe.

Date: October 06, 2011
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Zoning Board Conference Room, 2nd flr, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the projects may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office no later than 4:30pm, October 5, 2011. Written comments may also be submitted via email to therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Division 3 of Title 10 CMC).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Proposed Amendment to the
Official Saipan Zoning Map (Rezone)
For X's Corporation

The Commonwealth Zoning Board is seeking your comments on the following proposed amendment (rezone) to the Official Saipan Zoning Map. Mr. Xiong Hui is requesting to rezone lot E.A. 883-1 from "Rural" to "Industrial", for the storage of construction materials and equipments and to operate a vehicle repair shop. This area is located at the former site of Black Micro Corporation in Kannat Tabla, adjacent to the CMS Quarry.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: Thursday, October 6, 2011
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Zoning Office conference room, 2nd floor, Joeten Dandan Bldg.

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, October 5, 2011. Please send written comments via e-mail to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please contact Therese T. Ogumoro at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2008.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING
for
An Manufacturing Partnership

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for a Conditional Use Permit. Mr. Li Xiang Ming from An Manufacturing is proposing to manufacture concrete hollow blocks on lot 550New-8-R1. This area is located along Afetnas Road in San Antonio.

Date: October 06, 2011
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Zoning Board Conference Room, 2nd flr, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the projects may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office no later than 4:30pm, October 5, 2011. Written comments may also be submitted via email to therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp , via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Division 3 of Title 10 CMC).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Facebook and its followers

© 2011, Los Angeles Times

Give Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg points for ambition. The company is rolling out a new version of its popular social network that seeks to be the hub of everything its users do online. If Zuckerberg's gambit succeeds, Facebook would attain an even more dominant position among social networks. It would also amass a storehouse of knowledge about its users large enough to rival Google's. The implications for users and media companies, however, are not so promising.

Launched to help college students connect to one another, Facebook has evolved into a place where up to half a billion people gather each day, often for hours at a time, to share pictures, links and commentary. The network has become a powerful platform for marketers and, increasingly, application developers, particularly those writing games that let friends interact through the Net.

On Thursday, Zuckerberg unveiled two new features that encourage users to provide even more information about themselves to Facebook—for example, by automatically posting links on Facebook to the songs they're playing from an online jukebox or the TV shows they're watching on Hulu. The point is to help people discover media and services by seeing what their friends and acquaintances are doing.

That's a powerful model, and it mirrors the role friends play in helping people discover things offline. But sharing all that information with Facebook has a downside for consumers too, considering the company's troubling track record of unilaterally deciding to put consumers' personal data to new and unexpected uses. The automatic link-posting function effectively tracks what Facebook users do with online media and services even when they're not connected directly to the social network. Who knows what uses the company might find for that information?

For media companies, meanwhile, Facebook's move means that millions of people could start alerting their friends about the songs, shows and other content they consume online. But if those friends can't play any of that material, the value of that promotion will evaporate; instead, they'll gravitate toward content they can play. The pressure will thus grow on media companies to make more content available online, and to make at least some of it available for free. That's not necessarily the direction the movie studios, publishers and other content providers want to go. But if Facebook leads half a billion people down that road, media companies may have to follow.

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Judge
THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA IS GOING TO EXTEND WOMENS RIGHTS!
SEXISM
"GET HER A LONGER CHAIN."

From a bat, to a pig, to you—not likely

By WENDY ORENT
LOS ANGELES TIMES

A bat settles in a palm tree, somewhere in southern China. It nibbles on a piece of fruit, and later it drops part of it in a pigpen, where it is eaten by a piglet. The piglet is slaughtered. A chef who handles the meat shakes hands with Gwyneth Paltrow, who then goes back to the U.S., visits her lover, stumbles home, shakes, foams at the mouth and dies.

And with that, a vicious viral killer begins its rampage.

This scenario from the movie "Contagion" was dreamed up by a Columbia University professor of epidemiology, W. Ian Lipkin, which gives it a veneer of scientific respectability. But could a deadly new disease really emerge this way? Uh—not likely.

It isn't that diseases don't cross from one species to another all the time; they do. Most human diseases are zoonoses (infections originating in animals). Smallpox, for example, began life as a rodent pox that gradually evolved into a human disease. The most vicious form of malaria, falciparum malaria, is today a human illness, but it too started life as a disease of other animals. HIV started in chimps, and it probably crossed into our species sometime in the first half of the 20th century.

All of these transformations depended on natural selection, the force that molds all living things, from pigs to parasites to people, and natural selection isn't like flicking a switch. It's a process. And it takes time for a disease to become efficient in a new species.

To imagine that this sort of adaptation could happen in two days is to leap onto Fantasy Island. Casual contact between species does not create new diseases in a flash. We're supposed to think that a new virus, part of bat origin, part of pig, sprang into being like magic as the new bits of RNA re-assorted themselves in the piglet. Bingo! You've got a new human virus. And miracle of miracles: It explodes! All across the world!

I asked Lipkin, science advisor to the movie, to explain his thinking. Here's how he responded in an email: "A recombination event…is what we proposed in 'Contagion.' A pig infected with one virus became infected by another and the two genomes combined in a single cell infected with both to form a virus with the capacity for human-to-human transmission and to cause more morbidity and mortality. Such events are eminently plausible and have been detected by sequencing a wide range of viruses."

But if such events are "eminently plausible," why haven't we seen new, highly transmissible, deadly human viruses that arose this way?

It isn't all that rare for RNA viruses to exchange genes in a cell. But to assume that a new, fully functional pathogen can arise de novo in a single pig and instantly become a lethal, highly transmissible, human-adapted virus is like believing that Aphrodite arose perfect from the foam. Mutation and recombination are only the raw material upon which natural selection acts. The "Contagion" scenario removes natural selection from the process.

The real-life inspiration for the movie was the Nipah virus, which does infect fruit bats, palm sap and pigs. Sometimes pig farmers catch it from their animals, sometimes people get it straight from palm sap that has been contaminated by infected bats. Nipah virus has been known to spread person to person, but only under conditions involving prolonged, close physical contact. In this way it's much like Ebola, an animal virus much better adapted to its original host than to people.

To turn into an effective human pathogen, a germ has to be able to spread easily among humans. That means it has to make the human host shed it into the outside environment where it can be picked up by another host. Transmission is a subtle business, and the ability to transmit, to manipulate the host into producing symptoms that get the germ out of one body and into the next, has to evolve. That evolution can take place only by the germ cycling among people. Not bats. Not pigs. People. And enough of them that the virus gets better and better adapted to its new hosts. Only then can it turn, temporarily or permanently, into a human-adapted germ.

That process was starting to happen with SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome), a disease that broke out of the "wet markets" of southern China in 2003 and was carried, via air travel, around the world. It infected about 8,000 people and killed 800 of them. But SARS, though a fairly lethal disease, wasn't very effective at transmission, which occurred only late in the course of illness and chiefly in hospitals, where putting very sick people on respirators aerosolized the virus and helped it spread. Quarantine of exposed people and isolation of the sick sufficed, within months, to break the chains of transmission and drive the evolving virus out of existence.

If the filmmakers had wanted to show a novel virus breaking into humanity in a way that approximates the truth, they would have shown us SARS, a nasty, lethal but inefficient human pathogen that the oldest of methods—quarantine and isolation—sufficed to push off the Earth. But that wouldn't have been as dramatic.

The truth is that if new diseases erupted the way that "Contagion" and its science advisers suggest, we'd all have died a long time ago. We are too much a single planet; we are 7 billion people practically sitting in each other's laps, as science-fiction writer Robert Heinlein might say. It's fortunate that even if filmmakers forget natural selection and its stringencies, pathogens don't. That's why we are still here to argue about it.

Wendy Orent is the author of Plague: The Mysterious Past and Terrifying Future of the World's Most Dangerous Disease. *She wrote this for the* Los Angeles Times.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The Accelerated Marketing Process

By RIK VILLEGAS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rik coaches businesses through their most challenging transition points to develop consistently profitable businesses that operate without them. He can be contacted at RikVillegas@gmail.com, and you can comment on this article at http://rikv.blogspot.com.

In the mid-90s, I held monthly brainstorming sessions with my business clients where we discussed hot topics to help their business move to the next level of growth. The synergy from the group spawned a series of epiphanies that allowed me to formulate a unique marketing process that identifies the specific steps it takes to develop customer loyalty and achieve sustainable growth for any business.

I tested my hypothesis and shared it with the group to fine-tune the process before putting it into practice. I realized that I had stumbled onto something that could make a profound difference for those businesses that implemented what I called "The Villegas Accelerated Marketing Process."

I'm going to share with you something that is usually reserved for clients I work with on a long-term basis. The process of finding and attracting prospects (marketing), getting them to buy (sales), and keeping customers so they return (customer service) is usually a fragmented process. However, it should be a seamless progression to move a prospect to become a loyal, long-term customer. My definition of marketing differs from the typical textbook description. I believe that marketing is a total process involving all business activities to profitably create and nurture a lifetime customer.

In my definition, marketing can be segmented into two broad areas: customer acquisition and customer nurturing. Everything in your business either helps or hurts those two functions. Almost every business focuses their efforts on customer acquisition; however, customer nurturing is often neglected, which focuses on encouraging customers to return, developing stronger relationships with them, and cultivating more referrals.

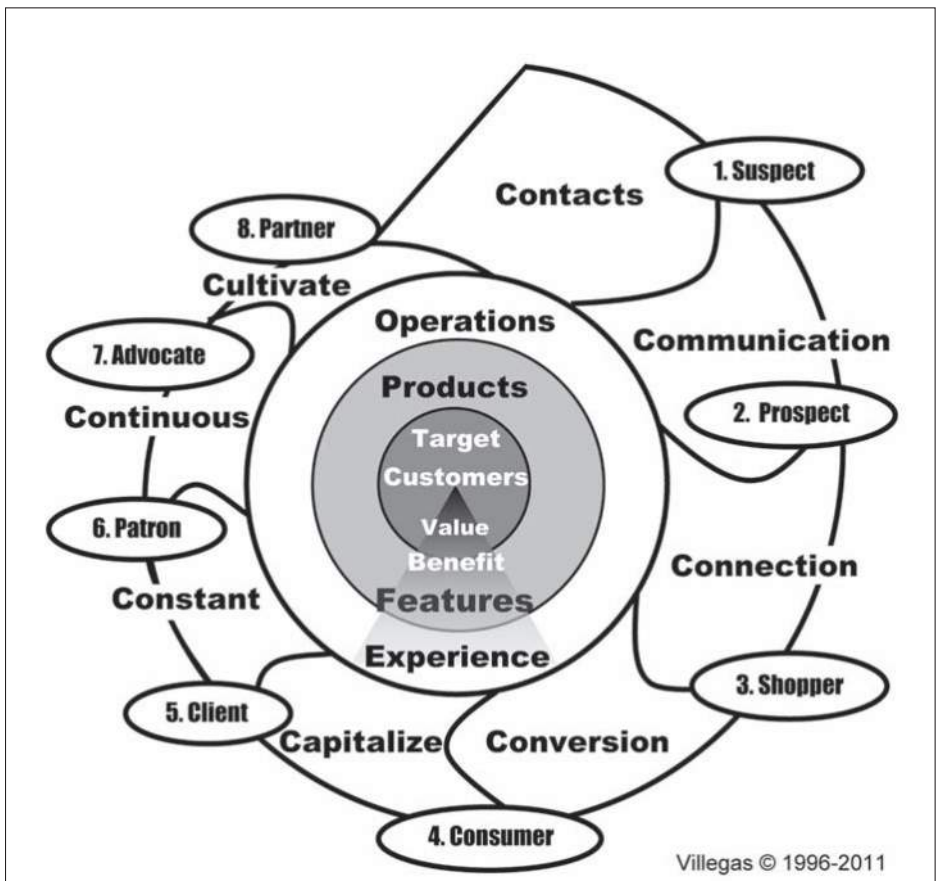
The Accelerated Marketing Process, or AMP for short, is broken down into eight steps, and it's a process because what you should do is progress a likely Suspect into becoming an interested Prospect, then getting them to become a Shopper, who eventually becomes a Consumer of your goods or services. These first four stages advance a person into making a transaction with your business. Most of the time, this is where the customer is inadvertently dropped by a business and expected to return on their own volition.

The AMP moves the customer beyond the transaction through effective interaction by moving the customer to become a Client where a relationship is developed, then a Patron who is a regular purchaser, next to an Advocate that spreads the message of your business to others, and ultimately to a Partner who feels connected to your business and committed to your future success.

The power of the AMP is that it doesn't drop customers after the transaction, but continues to nurture them through four more stages of the process using strategic activities designed to create lifetime customers. Employing all eight steps of the process is akin to developing a "greased chute" for your business, because once a person starts through the process, they should effortlessly move through each successive step. The entire process is repeated as your loyal customers continue to feed the process with new contacts they've referred to your business.

Imagine each of these customer levels circling a conch shell that has a series of sections that diminish into a spiral. In this instance, there would be eight sections corresponding to the eight customer levels starting at the large end with suspects. As they progress through each level, there are less individuals because of attrition. All your suspects will not transfer as suspect, and all suspects do not become prospects, etc.

Each of these eight sections should employ measurable strategies that pull individuals to the next level. The first strategy is to increase the number of possible Contacts for your business, then to Communicate through various media in order to make a Connection. Once the individuals have connected with your business, the next strategy is Conversion, or making the sale. Capitalize means you utilize strategies to increase the average purchase amount through up selling or other methods, then your efforts are to create a Constant customer who is Continuous in their repeat visits for the rest of their life. The final strategy is to Cultivate your relationships by having loyal customers share the positive experiences they have with your business to their friends and family, who then become the next crop of Suspects that continue through the process.



The Villegas Accelerated Marketing Process: *An eight-step process to transform suspects for your organization into customers who feel committed to your continued success!*

Ask yourself: How far in the process do I continue to work with my customers? What strategies do I have in place to help my customers advance to the next step of the process? What strategies should I implement right away to pull my customers to the highest level I'd like to realize for each customer?

At the very center of the model are three concentric circles with the center one focused on your target customers. The more precisely you can describe those individuals, the more effective will be your marketing efforts. The next circle represents the products that best satisfy your target customers' needs and wants, and the outer circle are your operations, which includes everything you do to operate your business, serve the customer, and your delivery and fulfillment of services.

Your products have features that provide specific benefits, and that should ultimately satisfy certain customer values. What are values? In this instance, they're the customer's perception of what they want to have happen; the specific solution or emotional satisfaction they receive when they use your product. All of the activities from your operations create an experience that a person has when they transact with your business. Their transaction experience is the total, overall feeling they remember from the interaction.

Ask yourself: What is the ultimate feeling my customer experiences from the transaction with my business? What values drive my customers to benefit the most from the products I offer? People ultimately remember the feelings they have with your company based on the value your products offer and benefits they receive. What should be done to become the premiere solution for my customers, or to help them realize their desired emotional satisfaction from using my products?

In summary, the AMP is a model to help you identify your best target customers and improve both your transactions and interactions with them so you can develop them into lifetime customers who refer more qualified people to your business. As you advance more of your customers through the process, you'll realize greater customer loyalty, which will translate into increasing sales and profits.

The harm of middle-class inequality

By DANIEL AKST
Newsday

Daniel Akst, a columnist for Newsday, *is the author of* We Have Met the Enemy: Self-Control in an Age of Excess *from Penguin Press.*

Fifty years ago, Kurt Vonnegut published a short story about a society beset by radical egalitarianism. Titled "Harrison Bergeron" and set in 2081, it features a government official called the Handicapper General who is determined to make everyone equal. This entails attaching bags of lead birdshot to graceful ballerinas, and hiding the faces of the indecently beautiful behind masks. Smart people are required by law to wear devices that emit excruciating noises every few seconds, shattering their concentration.

It's a radical and heartbreaking piece of fiction. And it raises profound questions—about the extent to which people are entitled to the fruits of their good fortune, about what we owe one another, and about the role government should play in rectifying nature's unfairness.

Those questions are especially pertinent now, half a century later. Inequality has been growing for a generation in this country, and both our economy and political culture are changing in ways likely to exacerbate it. It's been growing in other countries too, but among comparably affluent nations, we are a leader, and that's a dubious distinction deserving of more attention than it receives. The problem is twofold. First, the global economy has evolved in ways that heap ever greater rewards on the brightest and most self-disciplined people. Blue-collar workers, meanwhile, buffeted by trade and technology, have had their world turned upside down. And second, America does less to ameliorate these trends than most comparable countries. They have universal health insurance, for example.

Higher education is cheaper (if inferior). Taxes are higher on the highest earners. Workers get a greater share of income.

In some ways, we are victims of our own success. By ruthlessly emphasizing merit, we seemed to be moving toward a fairer society. But a funny thing happened on the way to utopia: We didn't get there. Class mobility seems to have stalled. High-earners marry one another, exacerbating income differences.

The psychologist Richard Herrnstein, who studied the heritability of intelligence, foresaw what was coming back in 1971. "Greater wealth, health, freedom, fairness, and educational opportunity," he wrote, "are not going to give us the egalitarian society of our philosophical heritage. It will instead give us a society sharply graduated, with ever greater innate separation between the top and the bottom." Vonnegut's egalitarian dystopia is an eloquent warning against government abuses in the cause of equality. That was a reasonable worry in the days when communism was very much alive. Maybe it still is.

But what a difference half a century makes. Our economy may yet evolve in ways that reduce inequality, perhaps by raising the value of plumbing, auto repair and other skills that can't be delivered from China or superseded by technology. Yet cheap overseas labor and distance-obliterating networks threaten many white-collar jobs, too. So I'm betting on even more inequality ahead.

Highly unequal societies aren't very stable or pleasant, but thankfully, hanging weights and noisemakers on the gifted isn't in the cards. The focus instead must be on improving K-12 education, including a much stronger trade-skills curriculum. College simply isn't the answer for everybody—and isn't the place for learning that should have occurred in high school. But first, our elites have to recognize that the country's future is bleak unless a way can be found for blue-collar Americans to earn a reliable middle-class living. It's tempting to give all of them dubious sheepskins and call it a day.

But we'd only be handicapping ourselves—with illusions.

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly sunny with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼76°	▲88° ▼77°	▲85° ▼78°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°

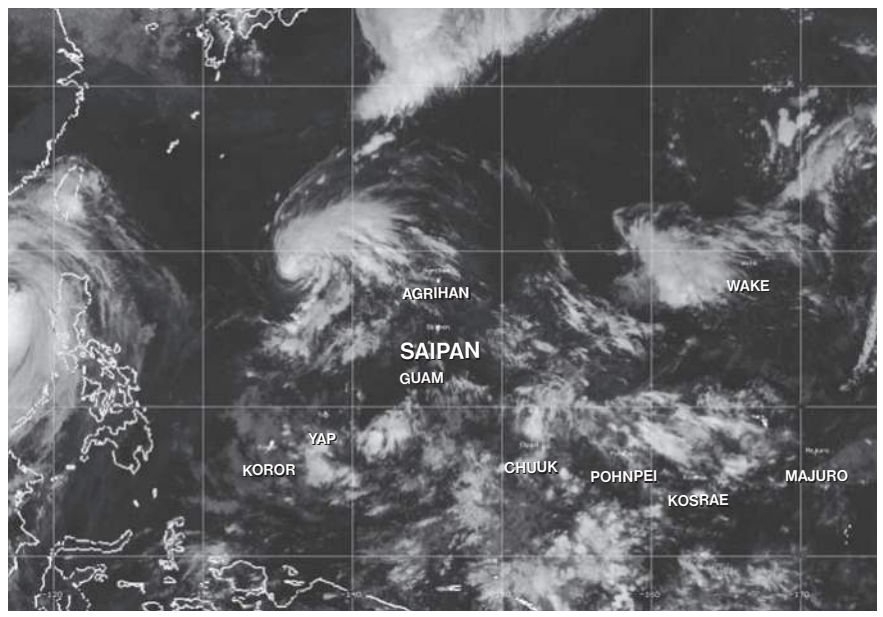
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Palau	Rain	▲85	▼78
Yap	Rain	▲85	▼76
Chuuk	Rain	▲82	▼76
Pohnpei	Rain	▲85	▼74
Kosrae	Rain	▲87	▼76
Majuro	Rain	▲85	▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲64	▼51
Beijing	Sunny	▲75	▼51
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲86	▼80
Honolulu	Sunny	▲89	▼77
London	Sunny	▲78	▼58
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲80	▼62
Manila	Thundershowers	▲86	▼80
Melbourne	Rain	▲59	▼51
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲89	▼76
New York	Showers	▲71	▼66
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼69
Paris	Sunny	▲79	▼54
Pusan	Thundershowers	▲76	▼65
Rome	Sunny	▲86	▼59
Salem	Sunny	▲76	▼49
San Francisco	Sunny	▲81	▼63
Seoul	Rain	▲68	▼60
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼67
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲78	▼68

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Storm Nalgae (22W) is centered 500 miles southwest of Iwo To near 19N136E and is moving westward at 6 mph with maximum sustained winds of 40 mph. Numerous showers and a few thunderstorms are found between 18N and 23N from 136E to 142E and within 70 miles of a line from 14N136E to 17N138E. For more detailed information on Nalgae, see bulletins issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN33 PGTW and by National Weather Service Guam under WMO header WTPQ33 PGUM. Low-level convergence within the monsoon flow is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms southeast of Yap between 1N and 9N from 138E to 148E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over portions of Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae states between the equator and 10N from 148E to 166E. An upper-level low centered west of Wake Island at 20N158E is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between 17N and 22N from 158E to 165E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:34 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
8:55 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
2:56 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
8:27 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:06 AM	6:08 PM
Friday	6:07 AM	6:08 PM
Saturday	6:07 AM	6:07 PM
Sunday	6:07 AM	6:06 PM
Monday	6:07 AM	6:05 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:34 AM	7:27 PM
Friday	8:38 AM	8:21 PM
Saturday	9:42 AM	9:19 PM
Sunday	10:43 AM	10:17 PM
Monday	11:42 AM	11:16 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

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  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 27, 2011

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
C09314	2:20am	2:50am	1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)			
C09315	4:25am	5:00am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C09315	4:25am	6:00am	1, 5 via ROP
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
5K386	5:50pm	6:40pm	4, 7
C09605	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily
C09599	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily
5K382	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5
SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)			
5K212	8:20am	10:55am	3, 4, 7
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX
OZ604	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:05am	8:30am	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/191	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	9:55pm	Daily via NRT
C09313/183	7:55am	8:40pm	3, 6 via GUM
C09603/183	3:05pm	8:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7 via GUM
C09603/193	3:05pm	10:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
5K168	9:45am	12:55pm	1, 5
C09603/179	3:05pm	9:25pm	1, 5 via GUM

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
C09315	5:30am	6:00am	1, 5
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
C09314	3:20am	3:55am	1, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
C09314	2:20am	3:55am	1, 5 via ROP
C09316	2:45am	3:35am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
5K387	6:30am	7:20am	3, 7
C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
5K389	8:10am	9:00am	1, 5
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09606	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily
NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN			
5K213	11:55am	4:25pm	3, 4, 7
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:05pm	12:45am+1	Daily
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	4, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ704/603	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
DL172/288	7:45am	12:45am+1	Daily via NRT
C0190/9606	10:55am	9:00pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0192/9596	9:55pm	7:25am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:25am+1	5 via GUM
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
C0184/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C0184/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ724/603	12:30am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
5K169	2:20pm	9:25pm	1, 5
C0180/9596	10:30pm	7:25am+1	5 via GUM
C0180/9596	10:30pm	7:50am+1	1 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

Cantaloupe outbreak is deadliest in a decade

WASHINGTON (AP)—Health officials say as many as 16 people have died from possible listeria illnesses traced to Colorado cantaloupes, the deadliest food outbreak in more than a decade.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Tuesday that 72 illnesses, including 13 deaths, are linked to the tainted fruit. State and local officials say they are investigating three additional deaths that may be connected.

The death toll released by the CDC Tuesday—including newly confirmed deaths in Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska and Texas—surpassed the number of deaths linked to an outbreak of salmonella in peanuts almost three years ago. Nine people died in that outbreak.

The CDC said Tuesday that they have confirmed two deaths in Texas and one death each in in Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska. Last week the CDC reported two deaths in Colorado, four deaths in New Mexico, one in Oklahoma and one in Maryland.

New Mexico officials said Tuesday they are investigating a fifth death, while health authorities in Kansas and Wyoming said they too are investigating additional deaths possibly linked to the tainted fruit.

Listeria is more deadly than well-known pathogens like salmonella and E. coli, though those outbreaks generally cause many more illnesses. Twenty-one people died in an outbreak of listeria poisoning in 1998 traced to contaminated hot dogs and possibly deli meats made by Bil Mar Foods, a subsidiary of Sara Lee Corp. Another large listeria outbreak in 1985 killed 52 people and was linked to Mexican-style soft cheese.

Listeria generally only sickens the elderly, pregnant women and others with compromised immune systems. The CDC said the median age of those sickened is 78 and that one in five who contract the disease can die.

Dr. Robert Tauxe of the CDC says the number of illnesses and deaths will probably grow in coming weeks because the symptoms of listeria don't always show up right away. It can take four weeks or more for a person to fall ill after eating food contaminated with listeria.

"That long incubation period is a real problem," Tauxe said. "People who ate a contaminated food two weeks ago or even a week ago could still be falling sick weeks later."

CDC reported the 72 illnesses and deaths in 18 states. Cases of listeria were reported in California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Maryland, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. The most illnesses were reported in Colorado, which has seen 15 sickened. Fourteen illnesses were reported in Texas, 10 in New Mexico and eight in Oklahoma.

Merkel: Germany wants 'strong Greece' in eurozone

BERLIN (AP)—Stock markets soared around the world Tuesday amid hopes that Europe is finally finding a way out of its debt crisis. Greece passed an unpopular property tax and German Chancellor Angela Merkel pledged to offer the struggling country "all necessary assistance."

It's unclear whether that will be enough to satisfy investors for long. Stocks improved following last week's turmoil as speculation grew that Greece's bailout creditors will look to impose bigger losses on Greece's private bondholders as well as recapitalize Europe's banks and expand the eurozone's rescue fund. So far, there's been no confirmation from Europe's capitals that such a comprehensive solution is being planned.

Financial markets closely watched a meeting between Merkel and Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou, but neither announced any new measures ahead of their private dinner at Berlin's chancellery on Tuesday evening.

"Through the euro, we are closely bound together, and the weakness of one affects us all," Merkel said at a news conference.

Germany, Europe's biggest economy, is seen as a key player in resolving the 17-nation eurozone's debt crisis, but Merkel's government has repeatedly been accused over the past 18 months of being a reluctant leader of the rescue efforts. Speaking earlier Tuesday alongside her economy minister, Philip Roesler, Merkel reiterated her conviction that there is no quick solution, saying the crisis must be dealt with "step by step."

Greece must receive an euro8 billion ($11 billion) rescue loan before mid-October to stave off bankruptcy, a collapse that would send shock waves through markets around the world. But creditors have demanded more efforts to raise revenue.

In response, Greek lawmakers approved a controversial new property tax Tuesday evening, passing it 154-143 in the 300-member parliament. The levy, in addition to public-sector reforms announced earlier, is expected to make up for lagging revenues this year by providing more than euro2 billion ($2.76 billion), or about 1 percent of Greece's annual gross domestic product.

Greek Finance Minister Evangelos Venizelos said his country will get the money. "The disbursement will be decided in time, in line with the course of our funding needs," he said.

AP

In this Sept. 15, 2011 photo, Bill Sackett stands next to cantaloupes that are not subject to the recent recall at his Rocky Ford, Colo. farm market.

Many cities imposing broad cuts as revenue shrinks

WASHINGTON (AP)—More than half of U.S. cities have cut staff, canceled construction projects or raised fees this year, according to a report from the National League of Cities that catalogs the vast damage from shrunken property- and income-tax revenue.

Cities are struggling from the same problems that have left the national economy sputtering: high unemployment, a depressed housing market and weak consumer spending. Those factors have reduced the taxes that cities collect for a fifth straight year. Many have had to make up the gap by laying off employees, freezing pay, cutting services, raising fees or suspending building projects.

Two-thirds of city finance officers said they had delayed or canceled public-works projects this year. Two in five reported raising fees for city services. One in five had cut spending on public safety. Nearly one in three had laid off staffers.

"We hoped the worst would be over at this point, but given where the economic considerations are, that seems to be very unclear here in the fall of 2011," said Christopher Hoene, director of the league's research arm and one of the report's authors.

Cities typically suffer the full force of a recession later than states and the nation as a whole do. That's because many cities rely heavily on property tax revenue, which can take several years to fully reflect falling home prices.

By comparison, states rely mostly on income and sales taxes. Income-tax revenue usually falls steeply within months after layoffs. State sales tax revenue also drops as people spend less.

As states' tax collections fell during the recession, they responded by cutting aid to cities, school districts and localities. Those cuts are expected to peak next year, according to research by the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities cited by the league's report.

Public education is especially hurt because many school districts are funded about half by states and half by property taxes, said Michael Leachman, the center's director of state fiscal policy.

"The bursting of the housing bubble has now caught up with property tax revenues, so that's making it harder for local governments to offset the declines in state aid that they've been seeing," Leachman said.

In Cleveland, the school board was to vote Tuesday night on whether to lay off teachers for the second time this year. The school district says it would have to find more than $10 million in cuts to help balance its budget and save the jobs of more than 300 teachers.

This past summer, the city laid off 319 employees, including 81 police officers.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Oil falls to near $83 in Asia ahead of US data

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Oil prices fell to near $83 a barrel Wednesday in Asia after a sharp rally ahead of the release of key U.S. data that could indicate the economic health of the world's largest crude consumer nation. Benchmark oil fell $1.26, or 1.5 percent, to $83.19 a barrel at midafternoon Kuala Lumpur time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract surged $4.21 to finish at $84.45 per barrel in New York on Tuesday. In London, Brent crude for November delivery was down 80 cents at $106.34 on the ICE Futures exchange.

Survey: Health insurance costs surge in 2011

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—The cost of employer-sponsored health insurance surged this year, snapping a trend toward moderate growth, but experts say these increases may slow again in 2012. Annual premiums for family coverage climbed 9 percent and surpassed $15,000 for the first time, according to a report released Tuesday by the Kaiser Family Foundation and the Health Research and Educational Trust. Premiums for single coverage rose 8 percent compared to 2010. That compares to increases last year of 3 and 5 percent for family and single coverage, respectively. The study shows that premiums for both family and single coverage have more than doubled since 2001, while worker wages have risen 34 percent.

Engineers prep inspection atop Washington Monument

WASHINGTON (AP)—Bad weather delayed the daredevil work of engineers who will rappel down the Washington Monument for a visual inspection, but tourists who ventured to the earthquake-damaged obelisk on Tuesday were nonetheless treated to a rare sight. For several hours, engineer Dave Megerle was perched atop the 555-foot monument, setting up a rope system and other equipment that will allow the rappelling team to traverse the exterior of the monument looking for cracks, chips and other damage. To get there, he climbed through a hatch that hadn't been opened in 11 years.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
11,190.69	1,175.38	2,546.83
+146.83	0.00	+30.14
+1.33%	0.00%	+1.20%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.0142	Hong Kong Dollar	7.796	Philippine Peso	43.505
British Pound	0.6398	Indian Rupee	48.955	Singapore Dollar	1.2879
Canadian Dollar	1.0246	Indonesian Rupiah	8882.5	South Korean Won	1168.1
Chinese Yuan	6.3929	Japanese Yen	76.586	Swiss Franc	0.8996
Euro	0.7371	Malaysian Ringgit	3.1621	Taiwan Dollar	30.4518
		New Zealand Dollar	1.2747	Thailand Baht	30.99

Nation

Axelrod: Obama faces 'titanic struggle'

MANCHESTER, N.H. (AP)—President Barack Obama's chief political adviser on Tuesday conceded that a dark cloud looms over the American economy and Obama's political future, describing the president's road to a second term in the White House as "a titanic struggle."

"We have the wind in our face because the American people have the wind in their faces," David Axelrod told an audience of New Hampshire politicians and business leaders. "So this is going to be a titanic struggle. But I firmly believe we're on the right side of the struggle."

But even as he acknowledged the stark political reality, Axelrod said the president would ultimately win re-election, in part because of the flawed field of Republican candidates. He characterized their plans to repair the nation's ailing economy as the same kind of deregulation and tax cuts that caused the downturn in the first place.

"This isn't new wine and old bottles. This is old wine and old bottles," Axelrod said.

He also assailed Republican contenders, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney and Texas Gov. Rick Perry, in an interview with The Associated Press.

Axelrod took issue with Romney's assertion that he's among the candidates with the least political experience in the Republican field. Romney held just one full term as governor but has run for higher office four times since 1994.

"I don't know how you define a professional politician, but running for office off and on for two decades seems to qualify," Axelrod said.

He also went after Perry.

"He holds up Texas as a model," Axelrod said. "You look at Texas and they have among the lowest wages in the country, the highest rate of uninsured people, some of the worst performance in their schools."

"I think most Americans will look at that and say, `Why would we want to emulate that?" Axelrod added.

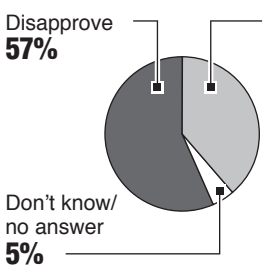
Obama's campaign has said that the 2012 election will be a "choice, not a referendum" on Obama, making clear they intend to draw sharp contrasts with whomever Republicans nominate next year. Democrats have begun raising questions about Romney and Perry's records both in and out of government, hoping to make the case that Obama would be best positioned to restore a middle class that has been battered by the economic downturn.

Sunshine State voters seeing red

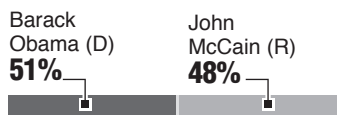
ELECTION 2012

President Barack Obama narrowly won Florida in the 2008 election. But recent polling suggests voter dissatisfaction in a state dominated by Republicans.

Obama job approval rating among all Florida voters



2008 presidential election results for Florida



Florida elected officials by party

Governor Rick Scott (R)

U.S. senators
Bill Nelson (D)
Marco Rubio (R)

House delegation
Democrats **6**
Republicans **19**

NOTE: Percentages do not total 100 due to rounding
Source: Quinnipiac University telephone poll of 1,007 registered Florida voters conducted Sept. 14-19; margin of error +/- 3.1 percentage points, The Almanac of American Politics
Graphic: Chicago Tribune

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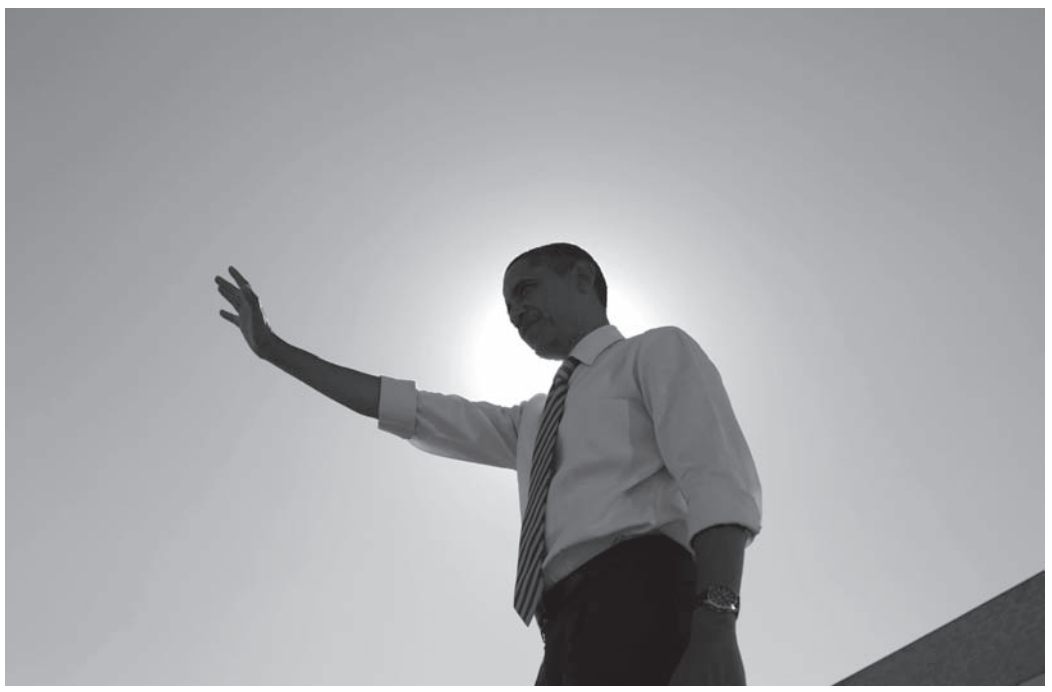


AP

President Barack Obama is silhouetted on stage after speaking at Abraham Lincoln High School, Tuesday, Sept., 27, 2011, in Denver.

Congress dodges one crisis, now on to the next

WASHINGTON (AP)—One crisis averted, on to the next. The day after Congress managed to avoid a government shutdown—again—Republicans and Democrats stared ahead Tuesday at major fights over spending that underscore a deep divide that's sure to define the fast-approaching national elections.

Monday night, lawmakers had postponed their dispute over whether billions for disaster aid must be paid for with cuts elsewhere in the budget, finessing a pact to keep the government operating.

But tea party-driven Republicans are still insisting on significant spending cuts this fall, with some arguing that a hard-fought congressional agreement this summer to fund the government at $1.043 trillion in 2012 was too generous. Democrats, many of whom complained of too many concessions and reductions in this year's showdowns, are furiously trying to protect government programs.

The next skirmish will be over how and where to spend the new year's budget, with a Nov. 18 deadline for that legislation. President Barack Obama's $447 billion jobs proposal that would cut payroll taxes and increase spending on school construction and other infrastructure has already divided the parties. But the next really big deal is the special 12-member bipartisan supercommittee and whether it can come up with a plan to slash $1.5 trillion over 10 years by Nov. 23—the day before Thanksgiving.

These fights will unfold against the backdrop of a feeble economy that Obama is desperate to jumpstart as he pushes for a second term, and an exasperated electorate that looks at Washington and dislikes what it sees.

"The heat will be on, the heat from the American people," said former Republican Sen. Alan Simpson, who believes Americans struggling economically will be asking, "Why stretch us out like this?"

Lawmakers also will be under pressure from political factions demanding that they stand firm for party beliefs.

"You have to support getting control of excessive spending and debt," said Sal Russo, a longtime Republican operative and founder of the Tea Party Express, a well-funded wing of the populist movement. "Are you helping to solve the problem or making it worse?"

Shortly after Senate votes on Monday, Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., thanked party leaders "for helping the Democratic Party find the backbone it needed to fight and win this debate."

The disaster aid dispute that threatened to partially shut down the government this weekend was resolved relatively quickly after a standoff between Democrats and Republicans. The fight, however, was an unpleasant reminder to most Americans of the last-minute maneuvering in April to avert a shutdown and the August showdown over raising the nation's borrowing authority that left financial markets unnerved.

This time, Democrats had spent weeks demanding additional disaster aid in response to hurricanes, tornadoes and other natural disasters that had battered Americans from Vermont to Missouri.

Longtime fugitive US hijacker caught in Portugal

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)—A 1970s militant who escaped from a murder sentence in New Jersey and carried out one of the most brazen hijackings in U.S. history was captured in Portugal after more than 40 years as a fugitive, authorities said Tuesday. After decades of stagnancy, there was a sudden break in the case when police matched his fingerprint to a resident ID card.

George Wright, 68, was arrested Monday by Portuguese authorities in a town near Lisbon at the request of the U.S. government, said a member of the fugitive task force that had been searching for him for nearly a decade.

Wright was convicted of the 1962 murder of a gas station owner in Wall, N.J. Authorities say Wright and three associates had already committed multiple armed robberies on Nov. 23, 1962, when he and another man shot and killed Walter Patterson, a decorated World War II veteran and father of two, during a robbery of the Collingswood Esso gas station in Wall.

Wright received a 15- to 30-year sentence and had served eight years when he and three other men escaped from the Bayside State Prison farm in Leesburg, N.J., on Aug. 19, 1970.

The FBI said Wright then became affiliated with an underground militant group, the Black Liberation Army, and lived in a "communal family" with several of its members in Detroit.

On July 31, 1972, Wright, dressed as a priest and using the alias the Rev. L. Burgess, hijacked a Delta Air Lines flight from Detroit to Miami accompanied by three men, two men and three small children from his communal group, including Wright's companion and their 2-year-old daughter, according to Associated Press reports at the time.

When the plane landed at the Miami airport, the hijackers demanded a $1 million ransom—the highest of its kind at the time—to free the 86 people on board. After an FBI agent delivered a 70-pound satchel full of money—wearing only a pair of swim trunks, per the hijacker's instructions—the passengers were released, according to AP accounts.

The hijackers then forced the plane to Boston, where an international navigator was taken aboard, and the group flew on to Algeria, where the hijackers sought asylum.

The group was taken in by Eldridge Cleaver, the American writer and activist, who had been permitted by Algeria's Socialist government to open an office of the Black Panther Movement in that country in 1970, after the Algerian president at the time professed sympathy for what he viewed as worldwide liberation struggles.

Algerian officials returned the plane and the money to the U.S. at the request of the American government, and briefly detained the hijackers before letting them stay.

ACROSS THE NATION

Police ID Ind. shooting victims; killer at large

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—State police say the five people found slain in rural southeastern Indiana were shot to death, and the killer or killers remain at large. Sgt. Jerry Goodin called it a murder investigation for the first time during a news conference Tuesday night in Brookville, near the crime scene outside the town of Laurel. He identifies the victims as 50-year-old Roy Napier, 47-year-old Angela Napier, and their children, 23-year-old old Melissa and 18-year-old Jacob. All were shot in the head.

Children placed with parents of missing Utah mom

TACOMA, Wash. (AP)—The children of a Utah woman who's been missing since late 2009 have been placed in the care of her parents. Sherry Hill, a spokeswoman for the Washington state Children's Administration, said Tuesday that the department's legal counsel had confirmed in court that the 4- and 6-year-old sons of Susan and Josh Powell would remain with Susan's parents, Chuck and Judy Cox, pending future court orders. The boys had been living with Josh Powell and his father, Steve, in Puyallup. But the children were taken out of the home last week after Steve was arrested on charges of voyeurism and possessing child pornography.

Feds seek the continued medication of Loughner

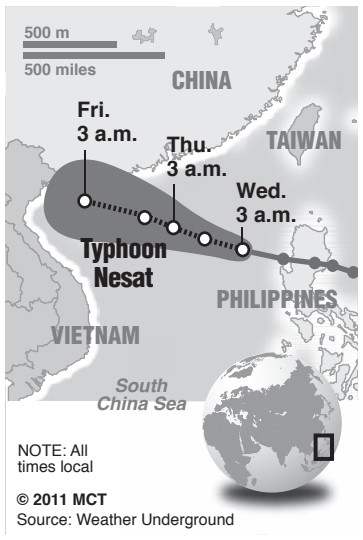
TUCSON, Ariz. (AP)—Prosecutors have again urged a judge to throw out a request by the Tucson shooting rampage suspect's lawyers to halt his forced medication. Jared Lee Loughner's lawyers argue that U.S. District Judge Larry Burns should stop the forced medication of their mentally ill client with psychotropic drugs because it's unlawful. A prison facility in Missouri where Loughner was being treated decided earlier this month that his forced medication needed to continue because he posed a danger to himself.

Nation

Philippine capital cleans up after typhoon kills 20

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Emergency services and residents in the Philippine capital cleaned up and restored electricity Wednesday after a powerful typhoon unleashed floodwaters and fierce wind that killed at least 20 people and sent huge waves crashing over seawalls.

Most deaths occurred in and around metropolitan Manila, which already was soaked by heavy monsoon rains ahead of Tuesday's arrival of Typhoon Nesat, which brought more downpours and wind gusts of up to 93 miles (150 kilometers) per hour.



The typhoon blew out of the Philippines on Wednesday packing winds of 75 mph (120 kph) and was expected to make landfall on China's Hainan Island on Thursday evening or early Friday.

The Philippine disaster agency said 35 people were still unaccounted for and that 108 had been rescued.

Power supply was gradually restored to the downtown area, which was strewn with trash and fallen bamboo pieces washed ashore by storm surges. The Metro Rail Transit also resumed operations.

Some areas were still flooded, including Manila Ocean Park facing Manila Bay and a major thoroughfare, Taft Avenue. The nearby U.S. Embassy, which was inundated Tuesday, remained closed.

Benito Ramos, who heads the Office of Civil Defense, said floods were receding in many areas as the weather began to clear but low-lying regions, especially in the vast, rice-producing plains of the main northern island of Luzon, were still under water.

Mayor Santiago Austria of Jaen, a rice-farming town of 63,000 people in northern Nueva Ecija province, pleaded Wednesday for boats to rescue many villagers from their swamped communities and bring them to evacuation centers. Sporadic rains continued to pound his town, about 75 miles (120 kilometers) north of Manila.

"We only have four boats but there are so many people waiting to be rescued," Austria told The Associated Press by cellphone. "Many people here are still on top of their houses. We don't have enough boats to reach them and hand them food."

Floods also damaged large tracts of rice fields that were soon to be ready for harvesting, he said.

Ramos said army troops were on their way to help the Jaen villagers.

Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim said huge waves as high as coconut trees breached a 65-foot (20-meter) -long seawall astride a popular promenade, allowing seawater from Manila Bay to rapidly engulf hotels, a hospital, business offices and several blocks of residential areas in waist-deep floodwaters.

"This is the first time that this kind of flooding happened here," said Lim, who began his career in Manila as a tough-talking police officer decades ago.

Strong winds toppled about 40 huge trees around the capital's tourist district and 3,500 people were moved from shantytowns into three school buildings, where they spent the night huddled amid continuing rains.

Emergency repair crews were clearing roads of trees, debris and stalled cars as schools and offices reopened Wednesday.

AP

Filipinos carry their bicycles along Manila's damaged bayside park as strong currents hit the area because of Typhoon Nesat when it landed in the Philippines on Tuesday Sept. 27, 2011.

Residential building crumbles in Old Delhi; 7 dead

NEW DELHI (AP)—Broken beams and mounds of clay lay in heaps Wednesday where a four-story residential building collapsed in the Indian capital, killing at least seven people and highlighting the dangerous housing conditions among the city's poor.

Residents said they feared some people may still be trapped in the rubble from the decades-old building that fell Tuesday night in Old Delhi around the time when people would have been home for dinner or getting ready for bed.

Rescuers using diggers to remove the debris Wednesday freed a young boy trapped as he was passing by the building when it fell in the congested Chandni Mahal area of Old Delhi.

The area is known for its overcrowded buildings and loose wires crisscrossing narrow streets. Locals said they believed the building, built about eight decades ago from old construction materials, had been undergoing construction work that might have weakened the foundation.

Police said seven people were killed and dozens injured, including four critically.

Authorities were investigating, while critics accused the city of ignoring the state of Old Delhi's dilapidated buildings.

Poor construction material and inadequate foundations are often blamed for collapses in India. A building collapsed in November, killing about 70 people in the capital, where prices for both land and rent are at premium levels thanks to a population quickly increasing with migrants seeking work.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Taiwan's Soong: Beijing does not want me to run

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—A China-friendly Taiwanese presidential candidate has been quoted as saying Beijing opposes his candidacy because it fears it could dig into support for President Ma Ying-jeou, Beijing's widely presumed favorite. The statement was attributed to veteran Taiwanese politician James Soong, and published Monday in an interview with Next Magazine. A Soong spokesman said that Beijing "disagreed with Soong's candidacy" in the Jan. 14 elections but would not elaborate.

US missile strike kills 3 in northwest Pakistan

DERA ISMAIL KHAN, Pakistan (AP)—An American drone fired two missiles at a house in a northwestern tribal region near the Afghan border Tuesday, killing three people, Pakistani intelligence officials said. The two officials said some people were also wounded in the strike near the town of Wana in South Waziristan. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief reporters.

Chinese man arrested for allegedly killing 9

BEIJING (AP)—A Chinese man who allegedly killed his wife and eight other people in a fit of jealous rage has been arrested. State media say 32-year-old fruit seller Qin Changcheng allegedly went on the rampage Monday in the northern city of Baotou. Those killed also included his uncle, aunt and the boss of a car wash where his wife formerly worked. Qin was tracked down and arrested by officers in the neighboring province of Hebei late Tuesday. The reports said he had argued with his wife over suspicions that she was cheating on him and that he also had multiple conflicts with relatives.

US ambassador to Beijing admired, reviled

BEIJING (AP)—Gary Locke has been praised for his down-to-earth manner since becoming the first Chinese-American ambassador to Beijing. He's also been denounced as a show-boater, a neocolonialist tool and a traitor to the Chinese race.

China's bipolar reactions to Locke since his appointment last month are partly due to an unease among Chinese authorities—accustomed to lavish official trappings and distance from ordinary folk—toward a man who gets his own coffee and carries his own luggage. They also display often contradictory sentiments about race, nationalism, and what it means to be a person of Chinese ancestry.

With its huge population and ancient culture, China has sent millions of migrants to other parts of Asia and the world. They are referred to as "overseas Chinese" despite adopting other nationalities and are still considered by most mainlanders to be part of the larger Chinese nation.

China's rulers have exploited such ties and sought to equate Chinese identity with loyalty to the Communist Party, aided by the country's rapid growth over three decades of economic reform.

The American ambassador, who has not shied away from criticizing China's policies, is challenging the notion of an innate loyalty among ethnic Chinese, said Xiong Zhiyong, a U.S. relations expert at China Foreign Affairs University in Beijing.

"Chinese people used to think that people that have ancestral roots in China would behave in a way that would always please China," Xiong said.

Locke also is challenging China's notions of how a high-ranking official is supposed to act, particularly poignant at a time of rising social tensions tied to soaring prices for food and housing and growing resentment of corrupt officials and the idle rich.

Locke, a former commerce secretary and governor of Washington state, made a splash even before arriving when a fellow traveler and blogger posted a picture of him, wearing a schoolboy backpack, using a coupon to buy a cup of Starbucks coffee at Seattle airport before flying economy class to Beijing.

Internet commentators in China remarked at how much this contrasted with the behavior of even minor Chinese officials who have attendants handle any mundane matters.

His everyman image was further burnished when he was photographed arriving at Beijing airport without a retinue or formal welcome ceremony, pushing his own luggage cart and riding in a van with his family rather than in the official ambassador's limousine.

"Backpack makes a good impression," ran a commentary in the official English-language China Daily newspaper, adding: "Perhaps it is time for Chinese dignitaries to follow the example of humble Locke," the paper said.

For his first public address, he passed over prestigious Peking and Tsinghua universities in favor of the relatively humble Beijing Foreign Studies University. There he appeared to win over students and faculty with a recounting of how his family had gone from an immigrant community to the governor's mansion in three generations and made a strong case for American openness and inclusiveness.

"It's a great honor for our school. He is very friendly and I think his story is very inspiring," European language student Annie Liu said.

Locke was not available for comment, but in earlier remarks has said he was "personally flabbergasted" by all the attention and that he hoped it would help convey America's stress on diversity and openness.

It didn't take long before Chinese official commentators took issue with the buzz around Locke.

As early as mid-August the Communist Party's official Guangming Daily newspaper issued a broadside telling readers to "be alert to the American neo-imperialism being brought by Luo Jiahui." It referred to Locke by the Mandarin version of his family's original Chinese surname, Luo.

"His overseas Chinese identity ... wins him affection among ordinary folks in China, but as everyone knows, this only reveals America's despicable desire to use Chinese against Chinese and provoke political chaos in China," the newspaper said.

It called his humble style a politically calculated affectation and urged Chinese officials to counter it by adopting more humble stances.

Another party paper, the Global Times, faulted Chinese media for overhyping Locke's humility and creating a "Luo Jiahui fever" while accusing him of "far surpassing the popular opinion role that an ambassador should properly play."

The newspaper commentary was mild compared to the rage stirred by a speech Locke delivered Sept. 19 to the American Chamber of Commerce in Beijing in which he criticized China's restrictions on market access to foreign investors.

World

UN: Israel and Palestinians still far apart

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The U.N.'s political chief said Tuesday that Israel and the Palestinians remain far apart on reaching a peace accord but insists "now is time for everyone to give diplomacy a chance."

B. Lynn Pascoe told the U.N. Security Council that the main obstacles to setting up a Palestinian state—a bid which Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas submitted last week despite a promised U.S. veto—are political, not institutional. He said that the main issue remains the "continuing Israeli occupation and the ongoing Palestinian divide."

The remarks at the monthly briefing on the Middle East came as Israel announced it would build 1,100 more homes on contested land in Jerusalem.

They highlighted the tenuous path confronting not only the Palestinians and Israelis, but also the Quartet of Mideast mediators—the U.N., U.S., European Union and Russia. The Quartet has drafted a plan to bring the two sides together for negotiations, with an ultimate goal of achieving a deal by the end of next year.

"Resuming negotiations, and making progress, is easier said than done," Pascoe told the council.

AP

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, left, speaks to Cabinet Minister Dan Meridor after giving a speech at the Knesset, Israel's parliament, in Jerusalem, Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2011.

With the Quartet's proposal and the push to restart negotiations, he said, "this would be a moment where the parties would be truly tested in their readiness to make serious proposals that addressed the core concerns of the other."

Abbas' insistence on presenting the application for Palestine's full membership to the U.N. pushed the long-stalled peace process again to the forefront of this year's General Assembly discussions and sparked a frenzy of last-minute diplomacy to dissuade him from submitting the application. The U.S. has vowed to veto the statehood bid in the Security Council.

Abbas said that if it was rejected, the Palestinians could turn to the General Assembly to raise their current status as a permanent observer to the a nonmember observer state, and resubmit the application again with the council.

The Palestinians have refused to resume negotiations with Israel until the Jewish state halts the building of settlements on occupied land.

Israel, however, has rejected the Palestinian demand, with Israeli Prime Minster Benjamin Netanyahu again ruling out a freeze in an interview published Tuesday.

Also Tuesday, Israel announced 1,100 new housing units in east Jerusalem, a move that U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton criticized as counterproductive to the Mideast peace process.

Netanyahu has called for the resumption of peace talks without preconditions. He has dismissed demands that a Palestinian state be based on Israel's 1967 prewar lines—putting him at odds with the administration of President Barack Obama.

Pascoe said the new settlement announcement was "of particular concern," adding that "we have repeatedly stated that settlement activity is illegal and contrary to Israel's" commitment to the peace efforts.

He also said extremists on both sides should not be allowed to "inflame the situation," noting several arson attacks by Jewish settlers on a mosque and a knife attack in Tel Aviv by a West Bank Palestinian on Aug. 29, as well as Israeli reports of a foiled suicide bombing the same month in Jerusalem.

The Palestinian request for recognition is to come up at the Security Council on Wednesday.

Diplomats said the council president will read a statement saying the Palestinian application has been transmitted to the council committee on the admission of new members, which includes all 15 council nations.

Libyan official delivers $16M to southern city

SABHA, Libya (AP)—Libya's transitional government delivered 20 million dinars ($16 million) Tuesday to this remote southern city beset by fighters loyal to Moammar Gadhafi, hoping to bolster support for revolutionary forces.

Journalists accompanied the oil and finance minister, Ali al-Tarhouni, and the cash on the first flight to touch down in the desert city of Sabha since a NATO enforced no-fly zone order in March. The 20 boxes of 20-dinar notes, each weighing 116 pounds (78 kilograms), were delivered to the Sabha central bank.

Revolutionary forces have gained control of much of the area but still face heavy resistance.

"The forces inside these areas are not opposed to joining us but they do not want to disarm," said Ahmed Bashir, spokesman for Libya's National Transitional Council in Sabha. "They have the weapons and no manpower. We have the manpower and lighter weapons."

More than a month after sweeping into Tripoli and ending Gadhafi's nearly 42-year rule, the fugitive leader's supporters are still putting up a fierce fight on three fronts: in Gadhafi's hometown of Sirte, the town of Bani Walid southeast of the capital and in pockets in the country's vast desert south, including Sabha. Most of the recent fighting has occurred in Bani Walid and the Mediterranean coastal city of Sirte.

Gadhafi's whereabouts are unknown, although he has exhorted his supporters to fight on several times in audio messages.

Syrian-based Al-Rai TV, which has become the former regime's mouthpiece, aired video of Gadhafi's son, Seif al-Islam, and it said it was taken last week. The same video, however, appears to have been uploaded to YouTube on March 6. A second YouTube video appears to show the same event with an upload date of Feb. 27, early on in the uprising.

Seif al-Islam Gadhafi's last known public appearance was on Aug. 23 in Tripoli. Many have speculated that he is hiding in Bani Walid. Like his father, he has been charged by the International Criminal Court with crimes against humanity for the regime's bloody efforts to repress the uprising.

In Sabha, revolutionaries are based in the city's largest neighborhood, al-Gurtha. They have set up a national council office and checkpoints on roads leading to areas where Gadhafi loyalists refuse to hand over their weapons. Residents are able to cross checkpoints into Gadhafi loyalist-held areas, but only if they have family inside, and even then they risk being accused of being Gadhafi supporters.

Bashir said the area has no Gadhafi brigades, but there are worries that armed Gadhafi loyalists may ambush revolutionary forces from the desert.

In Sirte, commanders said Libyan revolutionary forces battled their way into the eastern outskirts in a bid to link up with anti-Gadhafi fighters besieging the city from the west. Anti-Gadhafi forces first attacked Sirte nearly two weeks ago, but have pulled back in the face of heavy rocket fire and loyalist snipers.

Abdel-Basit Haroun, a revolutionary field commander, said fighters reached a roundabout less than six miles (10 kilometers) east of the city center. He said the plan was for the forces from the east and west to meet inside Sirte.

"We are almost there, but the hard phase of the takeover has just begun," Haroun said in a telephone interview from the eastern city of Benghazi. "We stopped using heavy weapons because the residential areas are packed with families, children and women. We are also facing snipers all over the rooftops of tall buildings."

Italian lawyer says Amanda Knox is no 'femme fatale'

PERUGIA, Italy (AP)—A defense lawyer told an Italian court Tuesday that Amanda Knox, the American student convicted of killing her roommate, isn't a manipulating, sex-obsessed "femme fatale" as her accusers charge, but is rather like Jessica Rabbit—just drawn that way.

In closing arguments before an appeals court, lawyer Giulia Bongiorno compared Knox to the cartoon character, contending that Knox had been unfairly portrayed over the course of the media-hyped, four-year case. She said the 24-year-old American is instead a loving young woman who simply displayed immaturity and naivete at the time of the 2007 slaying.

Knox was convicted of sexually assaulting and murdering Meredith Kercher, a British student in Perugia, and sentenced to 26 years in prison. Co-defendant Raffaele Sollecito, an Italian who was Knox's boyfriend at the time of the crime, was convicted of the same charges and sentenced to 25 years.

They both deny wrongdoing and have appealed their 2009 convictions. A verdict in the appeals case is expected within a week—possibly as early as Saturday.

On Tuesday, Bongiorno likened Knox to the voluptuous character in the "Who Framed Roger Rabbit" film.

"Jessica Rabbit looks like a man-eater, but she is a faithful and loving woman," Bongiorno said. Paraphrasing a famous line from the movie, Bongiorno said Knox "is not bad, she's just drawn that way."

Bongiorno is Sollecito's lawyer, but, with the fates of the two defendants intertwined, she discussed Knox's role in the case at length.

By the media as well as in court, Knox has either been described either as a manipulative "she-devil" or as an innocent girl caught in a judicial inferno in a foreign land. Bongiorno said she was really an immature girl who had just started dating Sollecito.

"One should not mistake tenderness for sexual obsession," Bongiorno said, adding the two liked making faces at each other.

"How do you reconcile that with the 'Venus in Furs' image?"—another reference Bongiorno threw in to a literary character who enslaved her lover. Bongiorno told reporters after the session that she had given a copy of the book—a 19th-century Austrian novella—to Knox, who reads avidly in prison, according to her family and supporters.

Israel approves 1,100 new homes in east Jerusalem

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel granted the go-ahead on Tuesday for construction of 1,100 new Jewish housing units in east Jerusalem, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ruled out any freeze in settlement construction, raising already heightened tensions after last week's Palestinian move to seek U.N. membership.

Israel's Interior Ministry said the homes would be built in Gilo, a sprawling Jewish enclave in southeast Jerusalem. It said construction could begin after a mandatory 60-day period for public comment, a process that spokesman Roi Lachmanovich called a formality.

The announcement drew swift condemnation from the Palestinians, who claim east Jerusalem as their future capital. The United States, European Union and United Nations all expressed disappointment with Israel's decision.

In Washington, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said the Israeli announcement was counterproductive to efforts to relaunch Mideast peace talks. She said both Israel and the Palestinians should avoid provocative actions, and that international mediators will remain focused on guiding the two sides back to direct negotiations.

Richard Miron, a spokesman for U.N. Mideast envoy Robert Serry, said the announcement "sends the wrong signal at this sensitive time."

The Palestinians have demanded that Israel halt all settlement construction in east Jerusalem and the adjacent West Bank—territories captured by Israel in the 1967 Mideast war—as a condition for resuming peace talks.

Since capturing east Jerusalem, Israel has annexed the area and ringed it with about 10 Jewish enclaves that are meant to solidify its control. Gilo, which is close to the Palestinian city of Bethlehem, is among the largest, with about 50,000 residents. Israel's annexation of east Jerusalem has not been internationally recognized.

Meir Margalit, a Jerusalem city council member who is critical of east Jerusalem construction, said city officials had given initial approval to the Gilo project more than a year ago.

Margalit said he didn't expect the project to be "an obstacle of peace" since it is in an existing Jewish area that is widely expected to remain part of Israel in any peace deal.

Focus

Census: 131,729 gay couples report they're married

AP

In this July 21, 2011, file photo, Jim Fitzgerald, left, sits with his spouse Al Koski, right, outside their home in Bourne, Mass.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Increasingly visible, the number of gay Americans telling the U.S. census they're living with same-sex partners nearly doubled in the past decade, to about 650,000 couples. And more than 130,000 recorded partners as husband or wife.

Census figures released Tuesday provide a rare snapshot of married and unmarried same-sex couples in the U.S. based on the government count conducted last year, when gay marriage was legal in five states and the District of Columbia. It comes at a time when public opposition to gay marriage is easing and advocacy groups are seeking a state-by-state push for broader legal rights.

Some 131,729 same-sex couples checked "husband" or "wife" boxes on their decennial census forms, the first time people could do so, after gay marriage became legal in Massachusetts starting in 2004.

That 2010 tally of married gay couples is higher than the actual number of legal marriages, civil unions and domestic partnerships in the U.S. Even after New York legalized gay marriage in June, a Census Bureau consultant, Gary Gates of UCLA, put the actual number of legally recognized gay partnerships at 100,000.

"There's no dispute the same-sex population increases from 2000 and 2010," said Martin O'Connell, chief of the fertility and family statistics branch at the Census Bureau. In cases of couples who reported they were living in a marriage relationship, "they basically responded that way because that is truly how they felt they were living."

The total of 646,464 gay couples in the U.S. was a downward revision of the Census Bureau's count of 901,997 released last month. The bureau said Tuesday it had to make the adjustment after determining that coding errors resulted in an exaggerated count for the initial number.

Still, researchers believe the new estimate could be as much as 15 percent lower than the actual number of gay couples in the U.S. because of social stigma, discrimination or other concerns about confidentiality. In a small number of cases, younger gay couples also may not have been counted in the census if they were "doubling up" in a home where neither was the head of household.

Based on revisions made to the 2000 census figure as well, the number of same-sex couples nationwide rose 80 percent from an adjusted 2000 figure of 358,390. Previously, the Census Bureau had reported there were 594,391 same-sex couples in the U.S. in 2000.

Nationwide, about 51 percent of the couples last year were female. Nearly one in five of the same-sex couples was raising children at home—widely distributed among those who reported being in marriage relationships and those who were not.

Broken down by state, the highest rates of increase in gay couples—both married and unmarried—were in lesser-populated states such as West Virginia, Montana, the Dakotas, Oklahoma and Kentucky, each rising at least 150 percent from 2000. In contrast, the larger, more traditional gay places including the District of Columbia, California and New York, posted the smallest percentage increases—60 percent or less.

Gay rights groups say the latest census numbers are an important step in increasing visibility and helping to dispel notions that they live primarily in big cities on the two coasts. Still, because the census forms do not ask about sexual orientation, some activists have complained that single gays—as opposed to those with live-in spouses and partners—have no means of gaining collective representation through the census.

"Every step is a step forward in acknowledging that, yes, we do exist," said Lois Farnham, of Burlington, Vt., who recorded a civil union with Holly Puterbaugh the first day they were allowed in 2000 and then legally married her in 2009.

Farnham, 67, said she expected the census numbers would underestimate the number of people in such relationships, noting that many same-sex couples keep quiet about their married status. "They can't share that with a lot of people for family or job security reasons. It's still an issue and people are still being discriminated against," she said.

Puterbaugh, 65, said many couples live as if they're married without making it formal. "You have to remember that there are many straight couples who have chosen not to marry for whatever reason that may be," she said.

Brian Moulton, chief legislative counsel at the Human Rights Campaign, described the latest census numbers as a "tremendous increase," demonstrating a culture shift and sending a signal to local officials and governments that gays and lesbians exist and deserve rights and benefits.

"A lot of couples who are reporting they are same-sex are in places where it's been legally and culturally more challenging for our community," he said. "That's not a reflection of couples suddenly popping out of nowhere—the culture is changing in those places to a degree people feel comfortable coming out on the census form."

The new same-sex data come as battlegrounds lie ahead over gay rights. Voters in North Carolina and Minnesota will be deciding next year on the fate of constitutional amendments banning gay marriage, while the Maryland Legislature is expected to consider a bill that would legalize it.

An August poll by The Associated Press and the National Constitutional Center found a narrow majority of Americans support legal recognition of same-sex marriage—53 percent to 44 percent opposed. That is largely unchanged from last year but a shift from 2009, when a slim majority opposed government recognition of gay marriage.

Groups opposing gay marriage have challenged the view that same-sex marriage will inevitably become the law of the land, saying that opponents have prevailed repeatedly in statewide votes. The National Organization for Marriage has been asking GOP presidential candidates to sign their marriage pledge, which includes support for a federal marriage amendment defining marriage as the union between one man and one woman. So far, it says it received commitments from Texas Gov. Rick Perry, Rep. Michele Bachmann, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney and former Sen. Rick Santorum.

Peter Sprigg, senior fellow for policy studies at the Family Research Council, notes that in the final census analysis a little over one-half of one percent of U.S. households are made up of same-sex couples—or 1 in 180. "This is a tiny, tiny segment of the population—the homosexual population is small, and the percentage in actual, committed partnership relationships is even smaller," he said. "We would hope politicians would not feel a need to pander to that small population."

In 2000, citing the federal Defense of Marriage Act, the Bush administration directed the Census Bureau to re-code same-sex couples who identified themselves as married to be counted as unmarried partners. Pressed by gay-rights groups in 2009, the Obama administration reversed that policy, allowing the bureau to count same-sex couples as married.

Last week, the U.S. military passed a historic milestone with the repeal of its "don't ask, don't tell" ban on gays serving openly.

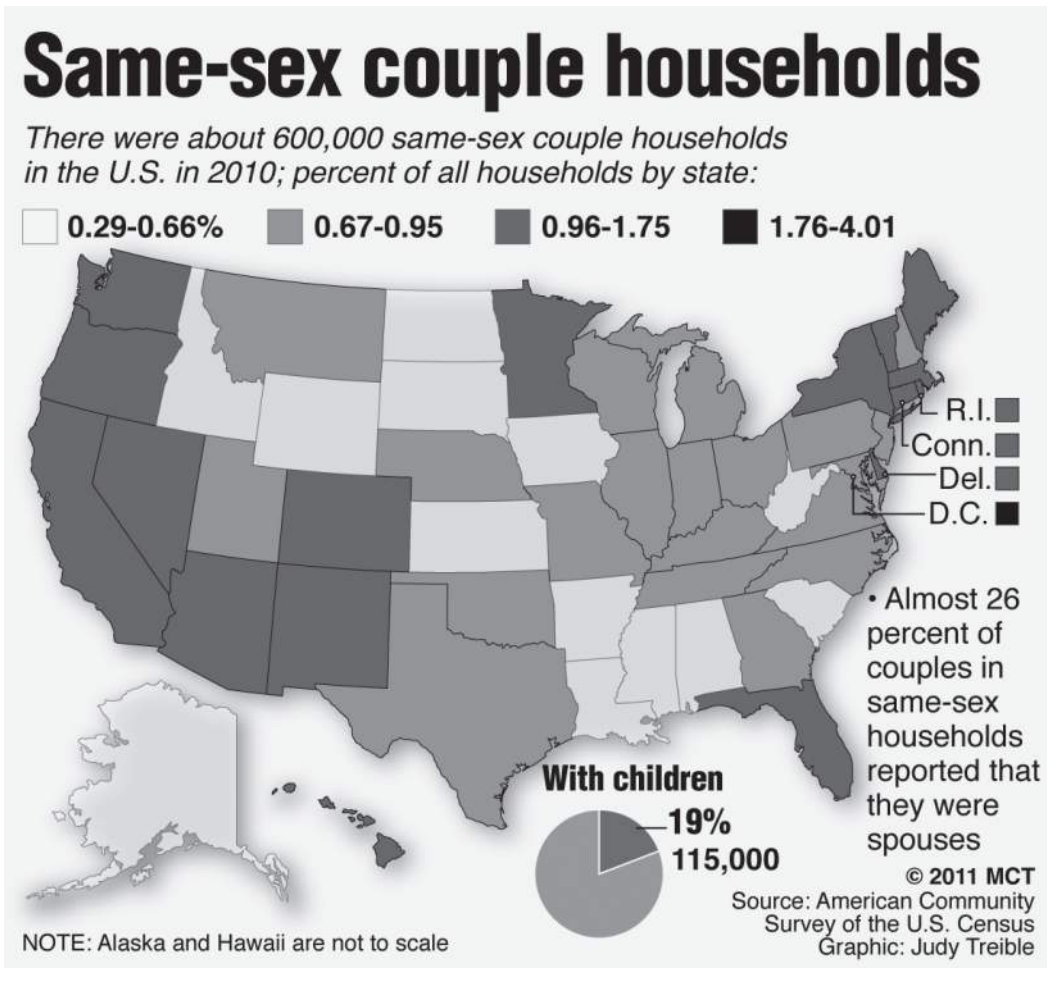
The census figures were welcomed by many gay people.

"It makes me feel like I am part of this country," said Al Koski, 69, a retired Social Security claims representative from Bourne, Mass., who married his partner Jim Fitzgerald in 2007 after they were together for more than 30 years. "I don't have to be in the background anymore. I am glad people are coming out of the closet and are not afraid to check that box."

Koski said he is hopeful that the census count will help in the push to legalize gay marriage in other states.

"Every time I see something happening, like `don't ask, don't tell' falling by the wayside, every time something happens, it's another little domino falling," he said.

The highest share of households with reported same-sex couples—both married and unmarried—was in Washington, D.C., at nearly 2 percent. Washington was followed by Vermont, Massachusetts, California, Oregon, Delaware, New Mexico and Washington state. On the other end of the scale, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming had the smallest shares, each with less than one-third of 1 percent.



Environment

Tree planting advice for Arbor Day

CHAMPAIGN, Ill.—Arbor Day is just around the corner in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (Oct. 1). Everyone grab a shovel and get ready to plant a tree. But wait!

When you plant a new tree, it is hard to imagine the growth that will take place in the years to come. The truth is that most new trees will outlive the person who planted them. Proper tree and site selection are important to ensuring the health and problem-free enjoyment of your landscape.

The International Society of Arboriculture suggests that homeowners carefully choose trees based on these criteria: the location in which the tree will be planted, the correct species for the environment, and long term maintenance needs. A local nursery or tree farm should be able to assist you in finding the best tree for your property based on these guidelines.

The best measure for ensuring your new tree will thrive is to plant it correctly and pay careful attention to its early maintenance. "Planting a tree is making an investment in the future," says Sharon Lilly, ISA Educational Director. "You must care for and nurture your young tree so that it will pay dividends for years to come."

AP

The best measure for ensuring your new tree will thrive is to plant it correctly and pay careful attention to its early maintenance.

TREE PLANTING TIPS

■ For bare root trees, neatly cut away any broken or damaged roots. Soak the roots for a few hours prior to planting to allow them to absorb water.

■ Container-grown trees should have the plastic or metal containers removed completely. Carefully cut through the circling roots. Remove the top half of pressed peat/paper containers.

■ Balled and Burlapped, "B&B", trees should have all the ropes cut. Pull the burlap at least 1/3 of the way down; slit the remaining burlap to encourage root growth. If in a wire basket, cut away the top of the basket.

■ Remove all tags and labels.

ON THE NET

For additional information on proper planting technique and maintenance of young trees, visit www.treesaregood.org

PLANTING THE TREE

■ Dig the planting hole shallow and broad. The width should be 2-3 times the diameter of the root ball, and the depth only as deep as the root ball.

■ Gently place the tree in the hole insuring it is perpendicular to the ground. Once you begin to backfill, it will be difficult to reposition the tree.

■ Partially backfill with the soil from the hole, using water to settle the soil. Finish backfilling the hole while gently but firmly packing the soil. Be sure that you leave the trunk flare (where the roots spread at the base of the tree) visible above the soil.

■ Soak the soil well, making sure no air pockets form between the roots. Wait until next year to fertilize.

NEW TREE MAINTENANCE

■ Do not stake unless the tree has a large crown, or if the planting is situated on a site where wind or people may push the tree over. Stake for a maximum of one year.

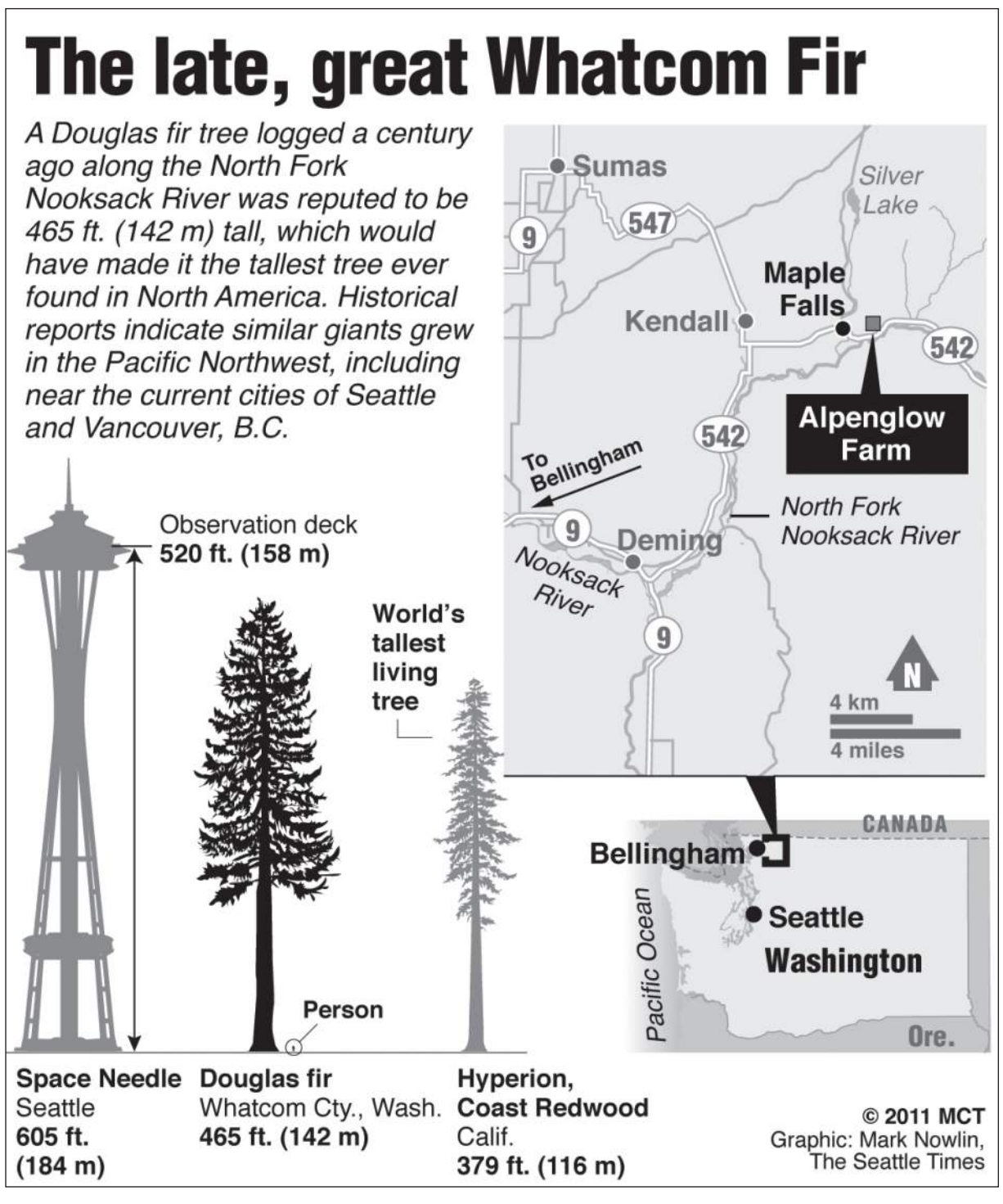
■ Prune only the damaged branches.

■ Spread 2"-3" of mulch over the planting area, but do not place it up against the trunk.

■ Be sure the root ball has plenty of water throughout the year by keeping the soil moist, but not soaked.

For additional information on proper planting technique and maintenance of young trees, visit www.treesaregood.org.

The International Society of Arboriculture, ISA, headquartered in Champaign, Ill., is a nonprofit organization supporting tree care research and education around the world. As part of ISA's dedication to the care and preservation of shade and ornamental trees, it offers the only internationally recognized certification program in the industry. For more information, visit www.isa-arbor.com. ***(International Society of Arboriculture)***



Five ways to lower your lighting costs

By TERRI BENNETT
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

Looking for ways to lower your utility bills? Lowering the amount of energy you use to light your home is one place to start. About 20 percent of your monthly energy usage goes toward illuminating your home, and slashing that bill takes a little more effort than simply turning off the lights. Here are my top five ways to cut your lighting costs so you can Do Your Part and turn on instant savings.

1. PICK THE BEST BULB

There are more energy-efficient light bulbs to choose from than ever. Start by migrating to more efficient bulbs as your old ones burn out. Newer bulbs can outlast traditional ones by up to 10 times and can save you up to 75 percent in lighting costs. However, you really need to know which kind of bulb is best for the various fixtures throughout your home. For example, Compact Fluorescent Light bulbs (CFLs) shouldn't be used in a dimmable or 3-way fixture unless it is specifically designed for that use. Choosing the wrong bulb will drastically shorten its lifespan and ultimately waste your money. You can learn more about the best uses for various types of energy efficient bulbs at DoYourPart.com/Columns.

2. TURN IT OFF

You always heard it growing up—"Turn off the lights when you leave the room." This is clearly an easy way to lower your energy costs but it's not always true. If you are using fluorescent bulbs and only plan to leave the room for a few minutes, it's best to leave the lights on. Frequent on/off cycling can reduce the lifespan of fluorescent bulbs.

3. USE A TIMER

Sometimes there's a need to leave the light on, but not continuously. In that case, opt for a timer and then you won't have to remember to flick the switch—ever! Choose a mechanical timer over electronic or digital timers, which can shorten the lifespan of some CFL bulbs.

4. TURN THE LIGHTS DOWN LOW

Putting dimmers on your lights not only lets you control the mood in any room, it can also save money and extend the life of the bulb. Just be sure the label states that the bulb is intended to be used with a dimmer.

5. LET MOTION SENSORS DO THE WORK

Finally, consider motion sensors. This way, lights come on when motion is detected and turn off when no activity is detected over a selected period of time. This is ideal for security lights outside but you can also install motion sensors indoors.

There are more ways than one to light your home for less. Whether you decide on different bulbs or other ways to conserve electricity, you will Do Your Part to use less energy and keep money in your wallet—without being left in the dark.

Terri Bennett is a veteran TV meteorologist, syndicated columnist, and host of DoYourPart.com where you can find everyday green living ideas that are better for you and the planet. Send questions to terri@doyourpart.com.

Life & Style

Jackson's voice echoes through Los Angeles court

LOS ANGELES (AP)—First, prosecutors showed a photo of Michael Jackson's pale and lifeless body lying on a gurney. Then, they played a recording of his voice, just weeks before his death.

Slow and slurred, his words echoed Tuesday through a Los Angeles courtroom at the start of the trial of the doctor accused of killing him. As a worldwide audience watched on TV and Jackson's family looked on from inside the courtroom, a drugged Jackson said:

"We have to be phenomenal. When people leave this show, when people leave my show, I want them to say, 'I've never seen nothing like this in my life. Go. Go. I've never seen nothing like this. Go. It's amazing. He's the greatest entertainer in the world.'"

Prosecutors played the audio for the first time during opening statements as they portrayed Dr. Conrad Murray, 58, as an incompetent physician who used a dangerous anesthetic without adequate safeguards and whose neglect left the superstar abandoned as he lay dying.

Defense attorneys countered that Jackson caused his own death by taking a drug dose, including propofol, after Murray left the room.

Nothing the cardiologist could have done would have saved the King of Pop, defense attorney Ed Chernoff told jurors, because Jackson was desperate to regain his fame and needed rest to prepare for a series of crucial comeback concerts.

AP

Michael Jackson fan Bristre Clayton of Las Vegas stands outside court during the trial of Conrad Murray, Michael Jackson's doctor who has been charged with involuntary manslaughter in the pop icon's death, in Los Angeles, Tuesday, Sept. 27, 2011.

A number of Jackson's family members were in the courthouse, including his father Joseph, mother Katherine, sisters LaToya and Janet, and brothers Jermaine, Randy and Tito. LaToya Jackson carried a sunflower, her brother's favorite flower.

The family's most emotional moment came when the prosecutor played a video excerpt from Jackson's "This Is It" rehearsal in which he sang "Earth Song," a plea for better treatment of the environment.

As Jackson sang the words, "I used to dream. I used to glance beyond the stars," his mother, Katherine, dabbed at her eyes with a tissue.

Prosecutor David Walgren noted it was Jackson's last performance.

Murray, who arrived at court holding hands with his mother, has pleaded not guilty to involuntary manslaughter. If convicted, he could face up to four years in prison and the loss of his medical license.

Speaking for more than an hour, Walgren relied on photos and audio recordings to paint Murray as an inept and reckless caretaker.

Walgren showed a photo of a lifeless Jackson on a hospital gurney. He juxtaposed the image with those of Jackson performing. Walgren also played the recording of Jackson speaking to Murray while, the prosecutor said, the singer was under the influence of an unknown substance roughly six weeks before his death.

The prosecutor said that Murray recorded the conversation with his groggy patient on his cell phone.

Jackson trusted Murray as his physician, and "that misplaced trust in Conrad Murray cost Michael Jackson his life," Walgren said.

The recurring theme was Jackson's never-ending quest for sleep and propofol, the potion he called his "milk" and that he believed was the answer. Jurors were told that it was a powerful anesthetic, not a sleep aid, and the prosecutor said Murray severely misused it.

The prosecutor said while working for Jackson, the doctor was shipped more than four gallons of the anesthetic, which is normally given in hospital settings.

Chernoff, the defense attorney, claimed the singer swallowed several pills of the sedative lorazepam on the morning of his death and that was enough to put six people to sleep. After taking a self-administered dose of propofol, Jackson did not even have a chance to close his eyes, Chernoff said, claiming he died instantly.

Chernoff, who had long hinted that the defense would blame Jackson for his own death, added a surprise. He claimed that Jackson died not because his doctor continued to give him the drug but because he stopped it, forcing Jackson to take extreme measures.

"What we will hear is that Dr. Murray provided propofol for two months to Michael Jackson for sleep," Chernoff said. "During those two months, Michael Jackson slept. He woke up and he lived his life.

"The evidence will not show you that Michael Jackson died because Dr. Murray gave him propofol. The evidence is going to show you Michael Jackson died when Dr. Murray stopped," the attorney said.

He said Murray was trying to wean Jackson off of propofol and had been giving him other sleep aids known as benzodiazepines trying to lull him to sleep.

On June 25, 2009, the last day of Jackson's life, Chernoff said, he was in the third day of a weaning process and it didn't work.

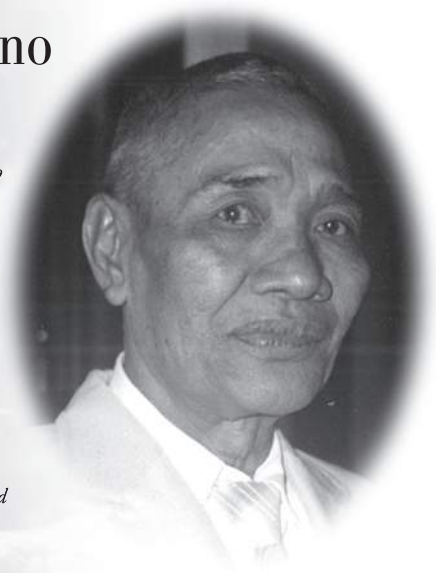
"Michael Jackson started begging. He couldn't understand why he wasn't sleeping.... When Michael Jackson told Dr. Murray `I have to sleep. They will cancel my performance,' he meant it," Chernoff said.

Murray, in a recording of his interview with police detectives, acknowledged that he relented and agreed to give Jackson a small dose of propofol.

In Celebration of His New Life

Daniel Evangelista Aquino

September 17, 1943 – September 24, 2011



In His New Life, He Now Joins His:
Parents: *Mariano F. Aquino & Maria E. Aquino*
Brothers: *Sixtus E. Aquino, Antonio Gabu, and Quirino E. Aquino*
Nephews: *Jose P. Aquino, Joseph L. Aquino, Jr. and Mariano K. Dela Cruz*

His Memories will forever live in the hearts of his:
Wife: *Antonieta R. Aquino*
Child: *Kristian R. Aquino*
Former Wife: *Maria I. Perez*
Children/Spouse and family:
Daniel Iwashita & Joann Pangelinan Tajalle Aquino (Alicia, Matthew, Zachary & Giselle)
Francisco Iwashita & Rosa Camacho Aquino (Kristen, Queanna and Queayla)
Mariano Iwashita & Leslie Camacho Aquino
Maria Iwashita & Romeo Delfin, Jr. (Mike and Marc)
Antonio Iwashita & Ramina Ramos Aquino (Mia-Lahnee and Rckaela Maree)

He will also be missed by:
Jovita Paulino (Daughter) and Daniel Gergorio Aquino (Son)

Brothers and Sisters:
Margarita Aquino and Children, Regino Evangelista & Rossana Ronquillo Aquino and Children, Juan Evangelista & Marylee Palacios Aquino and Children, Quirino Evangelista Aquino and Children, Josephine Dela Cruz & Tony Piao and daughter, Remedio Elameto & Pete Pua and daughter

Brother & Sister In-Laws:
Lita Rivera and family, Boy & Amelita Rivera and family, Pacing & Juliet Rivera and family, Zenaida Dela Cruz and family, Vangie Rivera & Nestor Apuhin and family, Edgar & Liza Rivera and family, Lino Rivera and family

He will be most especially missed by his beloved Companion: *Jemma Montejar*

He is also survived and will be missed by numerous Aunts, Uncles, Cousins, Nieces, Nephews, and Friends.

Mass of Intentions is being offered at Mt. Carmel Cathedral on these following days and time:
• Sunday & Wednesday at 6:00pm
• Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday at 6:00am

Nightly Holy Rosary is being offered at 7:00pm at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral.

On Friday, September 30, 2011 at 7:30am, our beloved father, Daniel E. Aquino will be escorted from Nuestra Señora Dela Paz to Mt. Carmel Cathedral followed by the Responso, the Holy Rosary, viewing and last respects. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00am immediately followed by interment of his final resting at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

We extend our Sincerest Humble Gratitude for all your Prayers and Love.
Un Dangkulo Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase'

Aquino Family

Death and Funeral Announcement

Jeronimo Kaipat Taitano

Better known as "Jerry"

Was called to his eternal rest on Friday, September 23, 2011, at the age of 51

In his new life he now joins his:
Father: *Jose Lisua Taitano*
Mother: *Victoria Borja Kaipat-Taitano*
Sisters: *Olympia, Trinidad*
Nephews: *Allen, Dexter,*
Nieces: *Canicia, Victoria, Dorsha*

Grand Parents: *Ignacio Quitano Taitano "Agaga" & Maria Taroligai Lisua*
Sotero Malus Kaipat & Joaquina Cruz Borja "Huk"

His spirit and memories will forever live in the hearts of his:
Brothers & Sisters: *Serafin Borja Kaipat*
Maria T. & Jan Akselsen (Sabrina, Geir)
Juan K. & Alterina H. Taitano (John Paul, Jane, Norbert, Joe Robert, Iunes, Angela Felicidad
Canice K. & Rita M. Taitano (Zachary, Lorna, Sylvia, Marlene)
Margarita T. & Benny Leon Guerrero (Vincent Aaron, Jason Jay)
Melisa T. & Caleb Gatharngeg (Caleb Canice, Nolan, Alisa)
Peter Paul K. Taitano & May A. Deleon Guerrero (Brandon, Ramon)

Brother in Law: *Sylvan Atalig Pua (Delbert, Darren, Daylan)*

Nephews: *Jose Matagolai Kaipat, Zacharias R. Sakisat, Robert Kaipat, Milton L. Kaipat*

On Friday, September 30, 2011, the body of the deceased will arrive at dawn and will be escorted to Cabrera funeral home for rosary and viewing.

On Saturday, October 01, 2011, viewing will be held at the Cabrera Funeral Home from 6:30 am to 8:00 am. The body will be escorted from Nuestra Senora Dela Paz to Mt. Carmel Cathedral for Mass of Christian Burial at 9:00 am. Interment Services will follow immediately at the Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase – Thank You

The Family

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Friday, Sept. 23RD through Thursday, Sept. 29th, 2011

★ ★ ★ NOW SHOWING ★ ★ ★

Abduction
Friday 4:15 7:15 9:50
Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:15 9:50
Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:15
Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:15
Taylor Lautner, Alfred Molina
Thriller • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
Twilight series star Taylor Lautner stars in director John Singleton's thriller about a teen who finds himself in mortal danger after realizing that his entire childhood has been built on lies. Realizing that the people who raised him aren't his real parents after stumbling across a childhood photo of himself on a website devoted to missing children, the frightened teen flees for his life as FBI agents Frank Burton (Alfred Molina) and Sandra Burns (Antonique Smith) race to protect him and uncover the truth about his mysterious past.

Dolphin Tales
Friday 4:00 7:00 9:30
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:30
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:00
Morgan Freeman, Ashley Judd
Children's/family • Rated PG

Killer Elite
Friday 4:10 7:10 9:45
Saturday 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:45
Sunday 1:10 4:10 7:10
Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:10
Robert De Niro, Clive Owen, Jason Statham
Action • Rated R

★ ★ ★

Straw Dogs
Friday 4:20 7:20 10:00
Saturday 1:20 4:20 7:20 10:00
Sunday 1:20 4:20 7:20
Mon thru Thurs 4:20 7:20
James Marsden, Kate Bosworth
Thriller • Rated R

Drive
Friday 4:30 7:30 9:40
Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:40
Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:30
Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:30
Ryan Gosling, Carey Mulligan
Thriller • Rated R

I Don't Know How She Does It
Friday 7:05 9:35
Saturday 7:05 9:35
Sunday 7:05
Mon thru Thurs 7:05
Sarah Jessica Parker, Pierce Brosnan
Comedy • Rated PG 13

Contagion
Friday 4:25 7:25 9:55
Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:55
Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:25
Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:25
Matt Damon, Marion Cottilard
Action • Rated PG 13

Spy Kids: All The Time In The World
Friday 4:05
Saturday 1:05 4:05
Sunday 1:05 4:05
Mon thru Thurs 4:05
Jessica Alba, Joel McHale
Spy film, Adventure • Rated PG

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Another celebrity says 'arrivederci' to 'Dancing'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Italian actress who romanced George Clooney has done her last dance on "Dancing With the Stars."

Elisabetta Canalis was dismissed from the show Tuesday, despite her third-place finish on Monday's episode.

She and professional partner Val Chmerkovskiy earned 21 points out of 30 for their quickstep routine—a six point improvement over their debut dance. But fans failed to keep the couple in the competition.

"For me, it was a gift every day staying here. It was a great adventure," Canalis said after learning her fate. "I want to thank everybody because they made me come here. Thanks to the public and to everybody who voted for us. Now I am really nervous, but thank you anyway. It was a great experience."

AP

In this image released by ABC, Elisabetta Canalis, right, and her partner Val Chmerkovskiy perform on the celebrity dance competition series, "Dancing with the Stars," Monday, Sept. 26, 2011 in Los Angeles.

Canalis earned mixed reviews for her routine Monday. Head judge Len Goodman said the dance was "not great but it was better than last week," while fellow judge Carrie Ann Inaba told the couple, "You nailed it."

Judges' scores are combined with viewer votes to determine which celebrity is ousted each week. Basketball star Ron Artest, now known as Metta World Peace, was bounced from the ballroom last week.

Perhaps the most relieved to be returning was Chaz Bono, who came into Tuesday's episode with the lowest score. He said Tuesday that he was "completely nervous" about the results and hoped he had performed well enough to continue in the competition.

"I did the best I could," he said.

He collected 17 points Monday for a quickstep routine that judges said was just too slow.

"The bottom line is it's a quickstep and I've moved faster through the car wash," Goodman said.

Also back in the ballroom next week will be reality stars Rob Kardashian and Kristin Cavallari; TV personalities Ricki Lake, Carson Kressley and Nancy Grace; actors David Arquette and J.R. Martinez; singer Chynna Phillips and soccer star Hope Solo.

Tuesday's episode also included musical performances by Demi Lovato and rock band The Script.

'L-Word' actress says kiss was brief and modest

It was cursing—not kissing—that got a lesbian actress and her girlfriend escorted off a plane as it sat at a Texas airport, Southwest Airlines said Tuesday.

The airline said the couple became profane after being reprimanded for what actress Leisha Hailey characterized as "one modest kiss."

Hailey

Hailey immediately used her Twitter account to accuse the airline of discrimination and call for a boycott.

Hailey is best known for playing Alice Pieszecki in the now defunct Showtime lesbian life drama "The L-Word."

The incident cast a national media spotlight on the actress, who is now part of the electro-pop duo Uh Huh Her.

Halley's publicist Libby Coffey said the encounter was real and was "absolutely not" done as a publicity stunt for her band's upcoming breast cancer awareness tour.

Hailey and partner Camila Grey also denied in a statement Tuesday that the affection they showed toward each other was inappropriate.

"We want to make it clear we were not making out or creating any kind of spectacle of ourselves, it was one modest kiss," the written statement said. "We are responsible adult women who walk through the world with dignity. We were simply being affectionate like any normal couple."

The airline responded that Hailey's display of affection was excessive and drew customer complaints, and that the women cursed after being reprimanded.

"Additional reports from our employees and customers onboard Flight 2274 during a stop in El Paso on Sunday now confirm profane language was being used loudly by two passengers," the airline said. "Although we have reports of what customers characterize as an excessive public display of affection, ultimately their aggressive reaction led to their removal from the aircraft."

Hailey and Grey acknowledged that they became upset after the flight attendant reprimanded them and told them Southwest is a family airline.

"We take full responsibility for getting verbally upset with the flight attendant," their statement said. "No matter how quietly homophobia is whispered, it doesn't make it any less loud."

Hailey and Gray said they plan to file a formal complaint with the airline.

Details of how the couple was escorted off the flight were not included in the Southwest statement. Initial reports had the flight going from Baltimore to St. Louis, but a tweet by the band says its members were flying from El Paso, Texas, to Los Angeles, which the airline confirmed.

Hailey said in a tweet that she has an audio and video recording of the encounter between the couple and the flight attendant. It's not immediately clear who made it. Coffey did not respond to an email requesting access to the recordings.

Hailey also demanded a public apology and a refund from the airline. The airline said it had reached out to all passengers involved to offer refunds.

Southwest's website says it is the official airline of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. Herndon Graddick, GLAAD's senior director of programs, said companies must train employees to welcome all customers.

"Just like all couples, Leisha Hailey and Camila Grey should be able to express affection in public," Graddick said. "The widespread outrage around Leisha's report demonstrates that fair-minded Americans will no longer stand for discrimination of gay and lesbian couples."

Earlier this month, the Dallas-based airline kicked off Green Day's lead man Billie Joe Armstrong for wearing his pants too low. The Grammy winner was escorted off a plane after failing to follow a flight attendant's directive to pull up the pants. ***(AP)***

Jennifer Hudson opens Chicago weight loss center

CHICAGO (AP)—Jennifer Hudson's name has graced an Oscar and Grammy, but the Chicago native said she never imagined her name would be on a weight loss center that she could use to inspire others.

The singer and actress stopped in her home town Tuesday for the opening of "The Weight Watchers Jennifer Hudson Center." Hudson, who lost about 80 pounds, is a spokeswoman for the company.

The new center, where walls are covered with posters of the svelte star, is in a strip mall on Chicago's South Side, not far from President Barack Obama's home.

"I never thought I would make it to have my own center," said Hudson, who wore a fitted, ruffled black dress and high-heeled studded black boots. "I'm so honored to be here and see this day."

Weight Watchers had pledged to donate a portion of the center's revenue to a foundation that Hudson co-founded in honor of her late nephew, Julian King.

The body of the 7-year-old was found in a vehicle a few days after Hudson's mother, Darnell Hudson Donerson, and brother, Jason Hudson, were found dead in the family's Chicago home in October 2008. All three had been shot. The estranged husband of Hudson's sister is charged in the killings and is awaiting trial.

Hudson, who started the foundation in Julian's honor with her sister, Julia, said she was inspired as a child by seeing the success of others.

AP

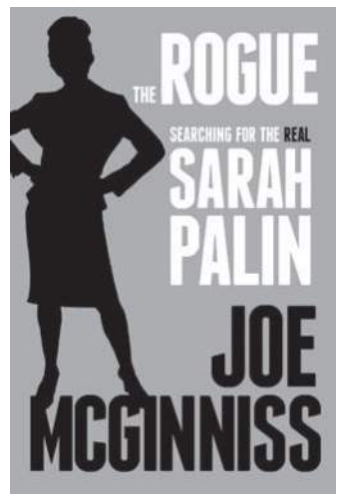
Grammy and Oscar-winning singer and actress Jennifer Hudson blows a kiss at the opening of "The Weight Watchers Jennifer Hudson Center," Tuesday, Sept. 27, 2011, in Chicago.

"I love to target children, because that's the thing that makes a difference," Hudson said. "We hope to do the same thing and start here at home in Chicago with health, with education, with dreams."

Hudson, who first earned fame as an "American Idol" finalist, won a Grammy for her self-titled album and an Oscar for her role in "Dreamgirls." Her album "I Remember Me," came out this year.

Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel, who attended the ribbon-cutting, called Hudson "Chicago's ambassador to the world at large.

Publisher stands behind 'The Rogue' book on Palin



JUNEAU, Alaska (AP)—A publisher is standing behind a book about Sarah Palin, a day after Palin's attorney threatened to sue over it.

Crown Publishers spokesman Stuart Applebaum says the company is confident the reporting in Joe McGinniss' book is "solid, reliable, and well-substantiated." Applebaum says Crown stands behind McGinniss and the book, "The Rogue: Searching for the Real Sarah Palin."

Palin attorney John Tiemessen, in a letter to Crown Publishing Group Monday, claims the book defames the Palins and contains "lies and rumors."

Tiemessen cited an email McGinniss reportedly sent a blogger in January seeking substantiation for several rumors that have surrounded Palin's family. Andrew Breitbart posted that email online last week.

Tiemessen says McGinniss' book contains "most of" the stories that "amounted to the wishful fantasies of disturbed individuals."

Ousted Taymor continues to support 'Spider-Man'

NEW YORK (AP)—Now that the worst part of "Spider-Man" is behind her, Julie Taymor says she's proud of what she accomplished with the Broadway musical.

"You're going to take flack for it" whenever there's a risk taken on "such a wide-open scale," she said.

Still, the director, who won two Tony Awards for "The Lion King," feels the media treated her poorly. "There were lots ofmisconceptions" in news reports about the show and safety concerns stemming from it.

Taymor

"Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark" was plagued by accidents and delayed premieres before finally opening in June. By that time, lead producer Michael Cohl ousted Taymor and brought in another director.

Many members of the creative team came to Taymor's defense, including lead actor, Reeve Carney, and U2's Bono, who called Taymor a "card-carrying genius."

Taymor says that the show didn't change much after she left and that she's no longer bitter. The $70 million extravaganza does brisk business, grossing more that $1 million per week.

"I'm very proud of what I've done, and I'm proud of the people inside that show," Taymor said.

Taymor made the comments while attending the New York premiere of the movie "50/50" on Monday night.

Parody of 'Silence of the Lambs' finds new home

NEW YORK (AP)—Hannibal Lecter won't go quietly.

Producers of a musical theater parody of the film "Silence of the Lambs" said Tuesday that they have found a new home for the now-closed show and plan an open-ended run.

A version of "Silence! The Musical" will open at P.S. 122 starting Oct. 25. The intermission will be scrapped and some scenes and songs will be trimmed. The full cast will be announced later.

The show, with dancing lambs and serial killers, first made a splash in 2005, winning best musical at the New York Fringe Festival. It returned to New York this July at Theatre 80 after a London engagement.

AP

In this theater publicity image released by Jim Randolph Media Relations, Brent Barrett portrays Hannibal Lecter, background, and Jenn Harris portrays Clarice Starling in a scene from "Silence! The Musical," in New York.

It has a book by Hunter Bell ("title of show") and music and lyrics by Jon and Al Kaplan.

Hometown friend who inspired Emeril dies at age 79

FALL RIVER, Massachusetts (AP)—Ines De Costa, a hometown family friend who inspired celebrity chef Emeril Lagasse, has died, her daughter said.

De Costa died overnight in her sleep at her Fall River home after spending Friday cooking in a city athletic club kitchen, her daughter, Ines Bates, said Tuesday. De Costa was 79.

De Costa had been suffering from heart problems for several years, her daughter said.

"She was a magnificent woman who thought food could fix anything," Bates said. "God was so good to her."

Lagasse did not immediately issue a statement Tuesday.

When Lagasse was a boy of about 9 or 10, he used to sit and watch De Costa in the kitchen of a restaurant she owned at the time in nearby Swansea when he visited with his family, Bates said.

Lagasse included many of De Costa's recipes in his cookbooks, although she was never afraid to scold him for fiddling with her ingredients.

"He put a recipe for her St. John's kale soup in one book, but she said he put in too much salt, and called to yell at him," Bates said. "Mom was a surprise guest on his TV show once, and she came out on stage and started yelling at him for messing up her recipes."

Lagasse maintained a loving lifelong relationship with the woman he called his second mother. He always checked in on her whenever he visited his home town, and she was a frequent guest at his New Orleans restaurant.

De Costa, known throughout Fall River as "Vo"—a Portuguese word for grandmother—ran the kitchen at St. John's Athletic Club for 33 years after retiring from the restaurant business.

De Costa was born in the Azores and moved to the U.S. in 1952.

In addition to her daughter, she is survived by two sons. Her husband, Manuel, died 22 years ago.

A public wake is scheduled for Thursday. A funeral Mass is scheduled for Friday at St. John of God Church in Somerset followed by burial next to her husband.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Melissa Etheridge gets Hollywood Walk of Fame star

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Grammy- and Oscar-winning singer-songwriter Melissa Etheridge, a breast cancer survivor, has received a Hollywood Walk of Fame star. Tuesday's ceremony in front of the Hard Rock Cafe Hollywood also marked the launch of Hard Rock's month-long Pinktober campaign, a series of concerts and celebrity events held to raise money and breast cancer awareness. The 50-year-old Etheridge is best known for the songs "Come to My Window" and "I'm the Only One." She received the 2,450th sidewalk star in Hollywood. Etheridge, who was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2004, has been an artist ambassador for Pinktober for six years.

Rapper Petey Pablo sentenced to 3 years for gun

NEW BERN, N.C. (AP)—Hip-hop artist Petey Pablo has been sentenced in North Carolina to almost three years in federal prison after pleading guilty to possessing a stolen firearm. The U.S. Attorney's Office says the 38-year-old rapper was sentenced Monday to 35 months behind bars in U.S. District Court in New Bern. Pablo's real name is Moses Barrett, and he's from Wake Forest, N.C. Petey Pablo was arrested last year while attempting to clear security at Raleigh-Durham International Airport for a flight to Los Angeles. Authorities found a loaded gun in a bag that had passed through an X-ray machine. Authorities say the investigation showed the gun had been stolen during a home burglary in Gardena, Calif., in 2005. The rapper is best known for the songs "Raise Up" and "Freek-a-Leek."

Surprise! Rascal Flatts invited to join Opry

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Country music supergroup Rascal Flatts is the latest member of the Grand Ole Opry. The trio was surprised with the news Tuesday night during their performance on the Opry. Twenty-year Opry member Vince Gill made an unscheduled appearance, interrupting singer Gary LeVox, bassist Jay DeMarcus and guitarist Joe Don Rooney mid-performance. The men had tears in their eyes and the crowd gave them a standing ovation. Rascal Flatts is the top-selling country group of the last decade. The trio joins a recent slate of longtime stars invited to join, including Blake Shelton and The Oak Ridge Boys. Opry membership is among the highest honors for a country musician. It comes with an ambassador-like commitment to the history of the genre and a requirement to perform at least 10 times a year.

Husband's constant correcting wears down wife's happiness

Dear Abby

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Will," and I have been married three years. It's a good marriage on most levels, but what causes most of our problems is the way he treats me. Will always assumes his way is correct. When I do something around the house, he comes up behind me and re-does it—including refolding the clothes. He even corrects the way I speak and pronounce words.

It has gotten to the point that I have shut down. I don't do much of anything around the house anymore because I figure it's a waste of my time. Will gets angry and makes fun of my "laziness." How do I get through to him that some things aren't worth making me feel miserable? When I try to explain how he makes me feel, he gets mad and pouts.

GETTING TIRED OF IT IN TEXAS

DEAR GETTING TIRED: From your description of your household, your relationship with your husband is NOT "good." In fact, the way Will is treating you could be considered a form of abuse. By constantly belittling and correcting you, he is trying to assert control and shake your confidence in yourself.

A husband who pouts and makes you feel bad when you tell him he's making you miserable is a poor life partner. He may be insecure, overbearing or have OCD. Or he could be a potential abuser. Insist on marriage counseling to find out which, or get out of there while you still can.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My "Uncle Bernard" has a colorful personality. He has always been full of tall tales about his exploits and celebrity encounters.

About five years ago, my uncle announced that he had been awarded a Purple Heart. I know for a fact that Uncle Bernie was a member of the Merchant Marines on a ship that never left the Great Lakes. He also isn't listed on the official Purple Heart recipient registry, which makes me wonder where he got the medal.

Uncle Bernie hasn't been feeling well, so he has prepared his obituary, which notes that he was a recipient of the Purple Heart. He has also told us he wants the medal displayed at his funeral. I am aghast! I don't think I'll be able to grin and bear this one, Abby. He's a fake, and I don't want his children and church to be embarrassed. What he's doing is wrong. What would YOU do?

BITING MY TONGUE FOR NOW

DEAR BITING: Uncle Bernie appears to be a fabulist, which is a polite term for liar. That he would masquerade as a war hero having never set foot in a war zone is disgusting. If I were in your situation I'd wait patiently until the time comes, then talk to his family about the potential embarrassment. When the obituary is published, reference to the medal should be omitted, and at the funeral the medal should not be displayed. Uncle Bernard won't know the difference, trust me.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Today I asked my wife of many years, "Do you still love me?" Her answer was, "At our age, there is friendship at most."

I think that love has no age limit. Who is right?

LEON IN MARCO ISLAND, FLA.

DEAR LEON: You are. There is no age limit on love. Love is love, whether you're a teenager or an octogenarian, and if you're lucky, even older than that.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

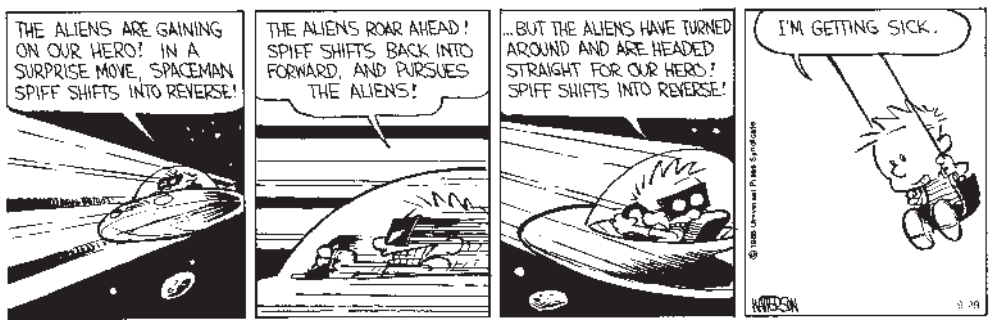
■■■

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby – Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

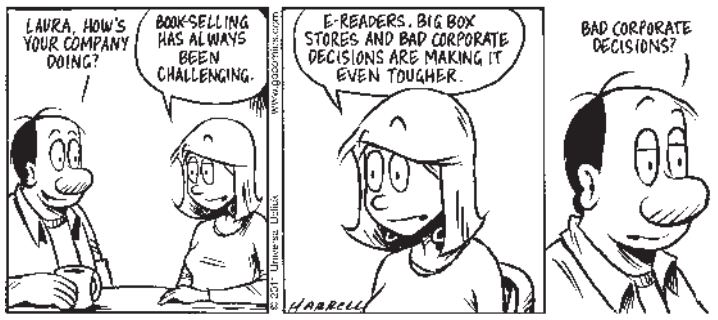

THE ALIENS ARE GAINING ON OUR HERO! IN A SURPRISE MOVE, SPACEMAN SPIFF SHIFTS INTO REVERSE!
THE ALIENS ROAR AHEAD! SPIFF SHIFTS BACK INTO FORWARD, AND PURSUES THE ALIENS!
...BUT THE ALIENS HAVE TURNED AROUND AND ARE HEADED STRAIGHT FOR OUR HERO! SPIFF SHIFTS INTO REVERSE!
I'M GETTING SICK.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

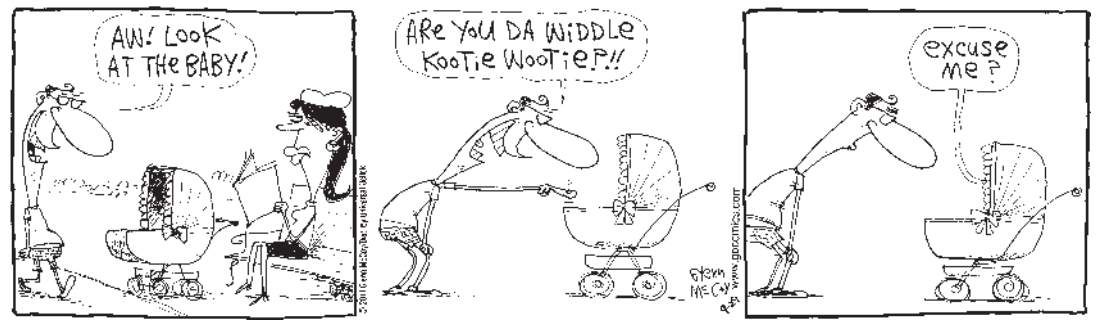
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


LAURA, HOW'S YOUR COMPANY DOING?
BOOK-SELLING HAS ALWAYS BEEN CHALLENGING.
E-READERS, BIG BOX STORES AND BAD CORPORATE DECISIONS ARE MAKING IT EVEN TOUGHER.
BAD CORPORATE DECISIONS?
REMEMBER THE "COMBAT SKYROCKETING FIREWOOD COSTS- BUY OUR USED BOOKS" PROMOTION?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

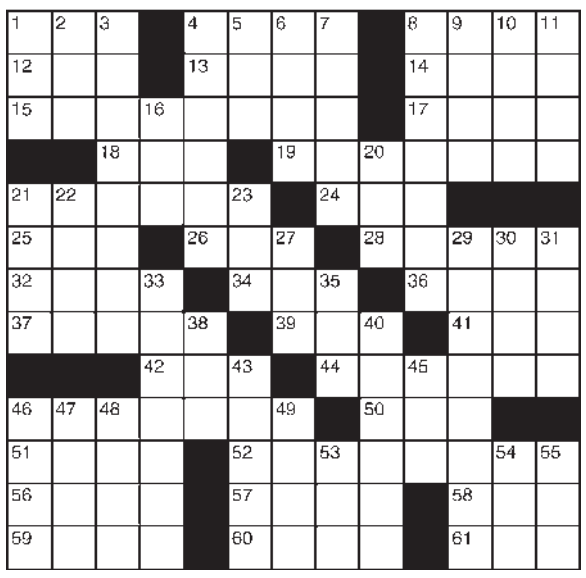
ACROSS
1 "— Got a Secret"
4 Ergo
8 "Repeat that, please"
12 Half a dozen
13 Loathe
14 Gardening device
15 Motherly
17 Duel tool
18 Id counterpart
19 2nd-century Roman emperor
21 Not as small
24 Shade
25 Plant bristle
26 Perch
28 Fundamental
32 Castle protection
34 Cattle call?
36 Doubtless
37 Apportion
39 Scull tool
41 Corral
42 Existed
44 Minimum
46 Boat race
50 Indy entry
51 Addict
52 Devilish
56 Carnelian variety
57 Dregs
58 Past
59 Drones
60 Rams fans?
61 Journey segment

DOWN
1 Doctrine
2 By way of
3 Outer
4 Pangs
5 Solo of "Star Wars"
6 Hexagonal state
7 Unexplained word in Psalms
8 Since, in a preamble
9 Kachina worshiper
10 On the briny
11 Adolescent
16 Early bird?
20 Fix the soundtrack
21 Tibetan monk
22 MPs' quarry
23 Edge
27 As well
29 Heavensent
30 Enrages
31 Penny
33 In the direction of
35 Big galoot
38 Tit for —
40 Play break
43 Steps over a fence
45 "— and Peace"
46 Hurry
47 Jacob's brother
48 Bacterium
49 Over again
53 Entry payment
54 Time of your life?
55 Journal

Solution time: 25 mins.

S	I	B	■	A	S	P	S	■	N	O	V	A
O	D	E	■	T	H	E	Y	■	O	B	I	T
F	O	R	■	H	Y	P	N	O	T	I	Z	E
A	L	G	A	E	■	■	C	H	I	■	■	■
■	■	■	N	A	T	O	■	M	O	T	I	F
S	A	T	I	R	I	Z	E	■	N	I	N	A
U	S	E	■	I	R	O	V	E	■	K	E	Y
M	I	N	G	■	F	N	F	R	G	I	Z	F
P	A	S	H	A	■	E	S	A	U	■	■	■
■	■	■	E	L	F	■	■	S	N	A	C	K
T	A	N	T	A	L	I	Z	E	■	L	C	I
A	B	E	T	■	O	D	O	R	■	B	L	T
D	A	D	O	■	W	O	O	S	■	A	L	E

Yesterday's answer 9-29



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Erika Eleniak, 42; Roger Bart, 49; Bryant Gumbel, 63; Jerry Lee Lewis, 76.

Happy Birthday: Show your dedication and loyalty and refuse to let anyone goad you into something you don't want to do. Concentrate on your own projects and set reasonable goals targeted to overcome any setbacks you've experienced in the past. Opportunity will develop through someone you used to work alongside, or an old forgotten project. Your numbers are 6, 17, 26, 31, 35, 43, 46.

ARIES (*MARCH 21-APRIL 19*): You must deal with partnerships and address issues to move forward. The goals you can reach are far too important to walk away from due to worry regarding what someone else might do next. Get everything out in the open. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Emotional issues will surface and diplomacy will need to be employed, but don't give in or back down. A persistent but loving approach will bring the best results. A problem at home or with personal property will need attention. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You will receive recognition for your effort if you do what you say and say what you do. Your good ideas, quick wit and playful nature will attract friends and lovers. Romance is in the stars and evening plans will play out in your favor. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Busy yourself with hobbies, volunteer your time or help someone you love. Spending too much time worrying about you will disrupt your emotional well-being, resulting in few achievements. Reuniting with someone from your past will boost your morale. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Take a break or delve into unfamiliar territory. A change will revitalize you. Getting together with people will encourage you to move forward with a goal. Don't allow someone with whom you have an emotional attachment ruin your day. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Reliving the past may hinder your ability to move forward. You have more opportunity than you realize and must focus on learning and expanding your ability to take on greater responsibility. Focus on raising your earning potential. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Stop procrastinating when good fortune is within reach. Getting tied up in someone else's melodrama will be wasteful. Put all your effort into getting ahead and investing in yourself. Put greater energy behind your plans and reach for success. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): As long as you are sincere, you will be able to get your way. Anger never solves anything, and it certainly won't convince others to help you. Give what you can and you will be positioned to ask for what you want in return. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Take action and jump into a leadership position. Once you show your strength you will be able to get help turning your idea into a reality. A cash influx is coming, and alterations to your home will help you reach your goals. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Keep a low profile. Be observant and note what others are doing and saying. Knowledge will help you, but working quietly behind the scenes will be your best bet. Uncertainty will result from a decision you made in the past. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Get your personal papers in order and focus on contracts that can help you prosper. Don't let emotional matters slow you down or cause you to make a mistake. Timing is essential. Avoid anyone trying to tamper with your game plan. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Easy does it. You have a lot riding on the choices you make right now. Look at your current relationships and consider how best to utilize those connections. Prepare to reevaluate in order to shape a prosperous and happy future. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You have a sensitive, caring and loyal nature. You are relentless, stubborn and intense.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			5		2			
	4	1				3	2	
5			8					6
3						7		4
9		5						2
4					3			8
	8	9				1	5	
			6		1			

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/29

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	2	1	4	3	5	6	9	7
9	4	6	8	2	7	1	3	5
7	3	5	1	9	6	2	4	8
5	7	8	2	1	9	4	6	3
3	1	9	6	8	4	7	5	2
4	6	2	5	7	3	9	8	1
6	8	4	7	5	2	3	1	9
2	5	3	9	4	1	8	7	6
1	9	7	3	6	8	5	2	4

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/29

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

BELIEVING IN ANGELS Solution: 8 letters

S	G	U	Ⓔ	R	E	W	O	P	R	N	A	N	T	W
M	T	Ⓡ	T	F	I	L	R	O	E	Y	R	R	A	D
S	Ⓤ	N	A	L	N	Y	L	E	D	A	O	T	S	S
Ⓟ	M	S	I	G	A	E	D	O	W	T	C	G	K	G
E	G	A	I	A	S	U	L	U	A	H	O	E	N	N
V	N	S	E	C	S	E	T	E	O	O	I	V	E	I
O	I	E	S	R	M	R	R	I	D	L	A	I	V	W
L	L	R	G	E	D	C	E	U	R	E	C	G	A	O
P	A	A	P	N	N	B	S	G	T	I	V	P	E	R
R	E	C	O	R	I	D	H	A	N	P	P	O	H	S
O	H	F	I	R	A	Y	N	C	V	E	I	S	M	H
T	E	C	C	L	R	I	A	I	A	I	S	R	O	I
E	L	S	U	O	B	L	S	R	K	E	O	S	C	P
C	P	N	L	O	L	I	E	E	P	F	T	R	E	S
T	H	G	I	L	T	D	B	E	L	C	A	R	I	M

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Appeared, Biblical, Call, Care, Cloudy, Creator, Dreams, Fond, Forms, Give, Glory, Good, Healing, Heaven, Help, Host, Kindness, Lift, Light, Love, Melody, Messengers, Miracle, Moved, Music, Need, Power, Praise, Praying, Protect, Pure, Roles, Safe, Saints, Savior, Scribe, Scriptures, Sign, Spiritual, Task, Teach, Touch, Warn, Watch, Wings, Worship

Yesterday's Answer: Seesaw

SALE: The backs of Wonderwords 1036 apostle to once last so the puzzle will only make we'll you've some to expect for Wonderword, by a limited time the to book is on sale for $1.99 each, U.S. funds only, payable to Universal Uclick. Please add postage to the first book order, $1 each for each additional book. Send to Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106. Special toll-free, 1-800-542-6450.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

FOR SALE

09' White-Toyota Camry • Mileage-24,500 • Price-$15,500
09' Toyota Corrolla • Mileage-33,000 • Price-$12,500
Both in EXCELLENT condition! If interested Call 287-7676.

SERVICES

Website service. We can build you a Website starting at $100. Call/Text: 670.788.1658

EMPLOYMENT

Brilliant Star School is looking for:
Assistant Mandarin Teacher
Commercial Cleaner/Maintenance
Interested applicants please pick up an application form or call (670) 323-7827

---

1 - Licensed Dive Master, with 5 Years Experience • Minimum Salary. Send you resume to SMJ Corporation, P.O. Box 503944 Saipan MP 96950

4- Fisherman (Bottom / Trolling / Diving), at least 6 mos. experience required • Minimum Salary. Send you resume to SMJ Corporation, P.O. Box 503944 Saipan MP 96950

2- Sales Representative. 6 mos. experience in direct selling of fish required • Minimum Salary. Send you resume to SMJ Corporation, P.O. Box 503944 Saipan MP 96950

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1 Barber, w/ 2 yrs experience, pleasing personality w/ good moral character. Inquiry, Call Genoveva's Hair Power, Inc. at 234-6378 or 234-9226.

1-General Manager $1,800.00-$ 2,500.00/mo. Bachelor's Degree in Accounting or BA . PSG Professional Corp. Email resume to psgspn@gmail.com

EMPLOYMENT

1 – Accountant $ 7.25-$ 13.00/hr. Bachelor's Degree in Accounting. PSG Professional Corp. Email resume to psgspn@gmail.com

---

1–Real Estate Appraiser $7.25 - $11.00/hr. Must be Licensed General Appraiser. PSG Professional Corp. Email resume to psgspn@gmail.com

---

1 Office Manager $5.05-$5.50/hr. w/ 5 yrs exp in PIII/Quick Books Acctg. PSG Professional Corp. Email resume to psgspn@gmail.com

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3–Bookkeepers $5.05-$5.50/hr. w/ 2 yrs exp of PII/Quick Books Acctg. PSG Professional Corp. Email resume to psgspn@gmail.com

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1–Insurance Sales Agent $5.05-$5.50/hr. w/ minimum 2 yrs experience . PSG Professional Corp. Email resume to psgspn@gmail.com

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3–Janitors & Cleaners. Salary - $5.05 - $5.50/hr. PSG Professional Corp. Email resume to psgspn@gmail.com

---

1 General Manager $2,000.00-$2,500.00/mo. At least 5 years experience . Dae Dong Corp. Email resume to psgspn@gmail.com

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1 Accountant $7.25 - $12.69/hr. Bachelors Degree in Accounting or BA. Pacific Dev. Inc. Email resume to psgspn@gmail.com

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1 Travel Guide $7.25-$8.92/hr. At least 5 years experience. Pacific Dev. Inc. Email resume to psgspn@gmail.com

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1 Tour Guide Salary - $7.25-$8.00/hr. At least 5 years experience. Pacific Dev. Inc. Email resume to psgspn@gmail.com

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3 fishermen bottom, trolling and diving. 6 mos. experience, minimum salary. Send resume to SFC P.O.Box 10005 Saipan, MP 96950

1-hairdresser or hairstylist
1-housekeeping or domestic helper
Submit resume at LKR Rosa Corp.
Katchu-Tataga St., San Antonio
Contact Rosa at tel.: 235-7850

CLICK IT OR TICKET
DAY & NIGHT

WANTED
Trash Collector
must have a valid driver's license
Please call 233-6267

FOR RENT
2-br apartment in Garapan near church partly furnished - **$400/mo.**
3-br house in Garapan fenced with large yard - **$1000/mo.**
1 Small Garapan Commerical Space or Storage unit - **$400/mo.**
CALL 285-1487.

WANTED
Live-in Houseworker
Call 233-6267

MAKE-A-WISH
Visit us at 865 S. Marine Dr., Orlean Pacific Plaza Ste. 104 Tamuning, Guam 96913
Tel: (671) 649-WISH • Fax: (671) 646-6293
Email: mawfguam@ite.net • www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily
Saipan Tribune

WHATZIT Solution: One foot in the door

Grace Christian Academy
is looking for:

Registrar (1)
Qualifications
Minimum 2 years experience in a Christian School;
Proficient in computer skills: excel, Word, Photoshop;
Proficient in filing/record-keeping;
Communication skills: community, parents, various ethnic groups;
Minimum 2 years experience in a Christian School;
Must be willing to submit to the doctrinal beliefs of the school;
Must adhere to all school policies and procedure.
Salary: $5.05 - $9.25

Pre-school teacher. (1)
Qualifications
Holder of Bachelor's degree preferably Early Childhood Education;
At least 2 years teaching experience in Early Childhood education, preferably in a Christian school;
Must be ACSI certified;
Must be willing to submit to the doctrinal beliefs of the school;
Must adhere to all school policies and procedure;
Salary: $5.05 - $7.71

Substitute Teacher (1)
Holder of a BA degree;
Must be flexible with substituting in any grade level;
Must be willing to submit to the doctrinal beliefs of the school;
Must adhere to all school policies and procedure;
Preferably ACSI certified.
Salary: $5.05 - $9.32

Bookkeeper (2)
Holder of Bachelor's degree preferably in Accounting;
At least 2 years experience preferably in a Christian atmosphere;
Can work independently and less supervision;
Must be willing to submit to the doctrinal beliefs of the school;
Must adhere to all school policies and procedure;
Knowledge in School Minder/Accountrak programs preferred.
Salary: $5.05 - $8.58

Maintenance – Repairer
Must have at least 2 years experience as ground/building maintenance;
Must be at least high school graduate;
Must be willing to submit to the doctrinal beliefs of the school
Must adhere to all school policies and procedure.
Salary: $5.05 - $7.89

2 Elementary School Teachers
1 Middle School Teacher
2 High School Teachers G9-G12)
Qualifications
Holder of Bachelor's degree in education or related field; major in any one of these subjects for middle school and High school, Math, Science, English;
At least 2 years teaching experience preferably in a Christian school;
Must be ACSI certified;
Must be willing to submit to the doctrinal beliefs of the school;
Must adhere to all school policies and procedure;
Salary: $5.19 - $18.26/hour

Business Administrator:
Holder of Bachelor's degree in Business Administration major in Accounting;
At least 5 years experience in a managerial capacity in the area of finance, and general services preferably in a Christian atmosphere;
Must be able to direct and administer financial/administrative operations of the organization;
Must be able to formulate & implement financial policies and procedures in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
Must be able to prepare, analyze, and interpret financial reports;
Must be willing to submit to the doctrinal beliefs of the school;
Must adhere to all school policies and procedure;
Salary: $7.75 - $24.64/hour

Interested applicants may download application form at www.gca-nmi.com
Submit completed application to Grace Christian Academy, Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
GCA is accredited with the Association of Christian Schools International

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

HAFADAI BEACH HOTEL

P.O. BOX 500338 SAIPAN, MP 96950-0338 • TEL: (670) 234-6495 to 98 • FAX: (670) 237-2529

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Open Date: September 29, 2011 **Close Date: October 5, 2011**

Position:	**(1) Manager, Sales & Mkgt.**
Salary:	$2,500.00 monthly
Job Qualification:	AA Degree / College Graduated / (10) Years Experience. Japanese Speaking.
Position:	**(1) Asst. Manager, Sales & Mkgt.**
Salary:	$1,850.00 monthly
Job Qualification:	AA Degree / College Graduated / (10) Years Experience. Korean Speaking.
Position:	**(1) Executive Chef**
Salary:	$2,350.00 monthly
Job Qualification:	College Graduated / (10) Years Experience. Japanese Speaking.
Position:	**(1) Sous Chef**
Salary:	$1,850.00 monthly
Job Qualification:	College Graduated / (10) Years Experience.
Position:	**(1) Supervisor, Reservation**
Salary:	$8.00 per hour
Job Qualification:	minimum AA Degree / College Graduated / (5) Years Experience. Japanese Speaking.
Position:	**(2) Supervisor, Front Desk**
Salary:	$8.00 per hour
Job Qualification:	minimum AA Degree / College Graduated / (10) Years Experience. Japanese Speaking.
Position:	**(1) Supervisor, Dining Room**
Salary:	$7.60 per hour
Job Qualification:	College Graduated / (5) Years Experience. Chinese Speaking.
Position:	**(1) Asst. Manager, Maintenance**
Salary:	$1,850.00 monthly
Job Qualification:	College Graduated/Mechanical Engineer (5) Years Experience.
Position:	**(3) Accountant**
Salary:	$5.05 per hour
Job Qualification:	AA Degree / College Graduated / (5) Years Experience.
Position:	**(1) Clerk, Front Desk**
Salary:	$5.05 per hour
Job Qualification:	High School Graduated (5) Years Experience.
Position:	**(9) Waitress/Waiter**
Salary:	$5.05 per hour
Job Qualification:	High School Graduated / (5) Years Experience. Preferably Japanese Speaking.
Position:	**(8) Cook**
Salary:	$5.05 per hour
Job Qualification:	High School Graduated (10) Years Experience.
Position:	**(3) Electrician**
Salary:	$5.05 per hour
Job Qualification:	High School Graduated / (10) Years Experience.
Position:	**(2) Building General Maintenance**
Salary:	$5.05 per hour
Job Qualification:	High School Graduated / (10) Years Experience.

For more information you may contact Mr. Juan I. Tenorio, Manager for Human Resources Department at (670) 234-6495/8 ext. 5840/2.
Employment application forms are available at Hafadai Beach Hotel, Human Resources Department.
AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

a. 1 vacancy for **Biomedical Engineering Technologist (BMET)** : Wage range $8.00-$12.50/hour (depends on qualifications). Must be skilled on various medical equipment repairs. Should be able to install, inspect, maintain, repair, calibrate, modify and design various biomedical equipment and support systems to adhere to medical standard guidelines. Must be computer literate. Minimum of two year degree on biomedical or electronic engineering with four (4) years field experience working with biomedical equipment repair field.

b. 1 vacancy for **Electrician, Maintenance Specialist for Health Facility** : Wage range $8.00-$11.50/hour (depends on qualifications). Specializes in installation and repairs of electrical systems, apparatus, and electrical and electronic components of industrial, machinery and equipment of Hospital Facilities. Must be computer literate. Minimum of two year certificate on electrical engineering. Is familiar with the hospital electrical and maintenance equipment. Must have a minimum of four (4) years field experience working in a hospital facility on various electrical and mechanical equipment.

c. 1 vacancy for **Laborer, Landscaping and Groundskeeping :** Wage $5.05/hour (CNMI minimum wage). Must be skilled in working with various landscaping equipment. Is a self starter. Be able to work for hours out in the sun maintaining public or private property using hand/power tools or equipment. Have the basic knowledge of plumbing and mechanical requirements for landscaping. Must have minimum of two (2) years landscaping experience. Has own vehicle to go from one work area to another. Be absolute trustworthy and dependable.

d. 1 vacancy for **Home Attendant, home health aide** : Wage $350.00-$500.00/month (CNMI live-in houseworker minimum wage). Cares for elderly, performing various household chores for the patient. Must be able to cook various local/international foods for the patient as requested. Be a companion for the patient in and out of home. Be able to assist patient to dress, bathe and groom self. Must have the qualities of patience, be trustworthy, dependable and caring. Must have minimum of two (2) years experience caring for the sick or elderly.

For inquiry or interview please contact Stan or Annie Benavente at #483-2619 Monday to Friday between 1:00pm- 5:00pm only.

Pacific Biomedical Services, Inc.

WHATZIT?™
Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

dofootor

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Find today's solution in this section

Surging Rays win again, beat Yankees, 5-3

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (AP)—Matt Joyce and Ben Zobrist homered Tuesday to help the Tampa Bay Rays continue their improbable chase for the American League wild card with a 5-3 victory over the New York Yankees on Tuesday.

The Rays, seeking their third playoff berth in four seasons, began the night tied with Boston after making up nine games in the standings since Sept. 4. The two teams remained tied after Boston edged Baltimore 8-7.

Joyce's three-run homer off former teammate Rafael Soriano (2-3) was the All-Star's first in more than three weeks and wiped out a 3-2 deficit in the seventh. Zobrist hit a two-run drive off Bartolo Colon in the second, and the Rays kept the score close by turning the third triple play in franchise history after falling behind in the sixth.

AP

Tampa Bay Rays' Matt Joyce, right, celebrates with teammate B.J. Upton after Joyce hit a seventh-inning, three-run home run off New York Yankees relief pitcher Rafael Soriano during a baseball game Tuesday, Sept. 27, 2011, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Red Sox 8, Orioles 7

In Baltimore, the Red Sox maintained a share of the AL wild-card lead, using four home runs to beat Baltimore and set up a dramatic conclusion to the regular season.

The skidding Red Sox were 6-19 in September before rebounding to edge the last-place Orioles. The win, combined with Tampa Bay's 5-3 victory over the New York Yankees, kept Boston and the Rays tied with one game left.

After blowing a nine-game lead in the span of 23 days, the Red Sox will send Jon Lester (15-9) to the mound against Baltimore on Wednesday night in an effort to get into the postseason for the fourth time in five years. Lester, Boston's most successful pitcher, will be throwing on three days' rest.

Rangers 10, Angels 3

In Anaheim, California, Adrian Beltre, Mike Napoli and Nelson Cruz hit consecutive homers in the fifth inning as Texas stayed on track for homefield advantage in the AL division series with a victory over Los Angeles.

The Rangers (95-66) have won five straight and nine of 10 while holding off Detroit (94-67), which beat Cleveland 9-6, for the AL's second-best record.

If Texas wins Wednesday's season finale or if the Tigers lose to the Indians, the Rangers will host the AL's wild card winner on Friday. Detroit holds the tiebreaker if the clubs finish even.

A day after the AL West champion Rangers eliminated the Angels from the wild card race, Napoli hit two of the Rangers' five homers among their 15 hits.

Tigers 9, Indians 6

In Detroit, Wilson Betemit hit a 423-foot home run in his first game back from left knee soreness as Detroit beat Cleveland.

Detroit remained one game behind Texas for the No. 2 seed in the AL after the Rangers beat the Angels 10-3.

Betemit hadn't played since Sept. 16, and manager Jim Leyland said Monday he was concerned about the third baseman. But Betemit was in the lineup Tuesday, and he gave AL Central champion Detroit a 4-0 lead in the second inning with the towering homer to right field.

White Sox 2, Blue Jays 1

In Chicago, Mark Buehrle pitched seven shutout innings in possibly his final start for Chicago and Tyler Flowers homered in a victory over Toronto.

The White Sox played their first game since Ozzie Guillen was released from his contract after Monday night's victory over the Blue Jays. Pitching coach Don Cooper served as interim manager.

Buehrle (13-9) allowed six hits, struck out six and walked none. He left to an ovation before throwing a pitch in the top of the eighth.

Buehrle will be a free agent after the season. General manager Ken Williams said before Tuesday night's game he didn't know yet whether Buehrle fit into the team's future plans.

Twins 7, Royals 4

In Minneapolis, Rene Tosoni hit a grand slam and Chris Parmelee also went deep to lift Minnesota over Kansas City.

Anthony Swarzak (4-7) gave up two runs on 10 hits with six strikeouts in 6 1-3 innings for the Twins (62-99), who are hoping to avoid becoming just the second team in franchise history to lose 100 games in a season.

Sean O'Sullivan (2-6) gave up six runs on nine hits with one strikeout in five innings for the Royals. Johnny Giavotella had two doubles and a triple and Salvador Perez added two hits and an RBI for Kansas City.

Athletics 7, Mariners 0

In Seattle, Trevor Cahill and two relievers held Seattle to just four hits while Josh Willingham and Scott Sizemore hit home runs in Oakland's big win.

After allowing a pair of singles in the first inning, Cahill (12-14) retired the next 13 batters in a row. No baserunner advanced past second base. He struck out seven and walked one.

Cahill's 40 career wins in his first three seasons are second most in Oakland history—behind Vida Blue's 42—for a pitcher before his 24th birthday.

Lowe pounded again, Braves routed by Phillies 7-1

Phillies 7, Braves 1

In Atlanta, Derek Lowe had another miserable outing, surrendering five runs in four-plus innings, as the Philadelphia Phillies romped to victory that left the Atlanta Braves on the brink missing the playoffs.

Chase Utley, Hunter Pence and Jimmy Rollins homered for the playoff-bound Phillies to back a three-hit outing by Roy Oswalt (9-10), who tuned up for the playoffs with a strong performance in a largely disappointing season.

The Braves lost their fourth in a row and eighth in 11 games, sending them to the final day of the regular season assured of no more than a one-game lead over the St. Louis Cardinals, who were at Houston.

Cardinals 13, Astros 6

In Houston, the Cardinals are tied with Atlanta for the National League wild-card lead, getting a vital two-run triple from Ryan Theriot in the seventh inning of a victory over Houston.

The sliding Braves lost 7-1 to Philadelphia, sending the race for the NL's final playoff spot to the final day of the regular season. If the teams are tied after Wednesday's game, St. Louis will host a one-game playoff on Thursday night.

The Cardinals trailed 5-0 early and appeared to be headed for a second straight loss to the Astros. But St. Louis scored five times in the fourth and erased a 6-5 deficit with a four-run seventh.

Lance Berkman hit a two-out single and scored on Allen Craig's tying double. Yadier Molina walked before Theriot's triple made it 8-6.

Marlins 3, Nationals 2

In Miami, Bryan Petersen homered with two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning and Javier Vazquez pitched a five-hitter as Florida beat Washington.

Petersen hit the first pitch from reliever Doug Slaten (0-2).

The 35-year-old Vazquez (13-11) may have pitched the final game of his career as he is likely to retire at the end of the season.

The Marlins also had only five hits.

Brewers 6, Pirates 4

In Milwaukee, Prince Fielder homered three times in a game for the first time in his career, including a two-run shot in the seventh inning that lifted Milwaukee over Pittsburgh.

Fielder's final homer was the least impressive of the three, barely sailing over the wall in right field after he hit monster shots in the third and fifth innings. But it was the last one that made the biggest difference, breaking a 4-4 tie.

With the win, the Brewers crept closer to securing home-field advantage in the first round of the playoffs. Milwaukee came into Tuesday's game with a one-game advantage over the Arizona Diamondbacks for the No. 2 seed in the NL.

Reds 5, Mets 4, 13 innings

In New York, Jose Reyes hit two solo home runs his bid for the NL batting title in New York's loss to Cincinnati.

Reyes began the next-to-last game of the season with a minuscule .00006 lead over Milwaukee's Ryan Braun. Reyes went 3 for 6 and raised his average to .336, finishing the evening one point ahead of Braun, who went 1 for 2 in a 6-4 win over Pittsburgh.

Juan Francisco, who entered after Reds star Brandon Phillips exited early with a strained left quadriceps, hit a tying double with two outs in the ninth. He then hustled for a triple in the 13th and scored on Drew Stubbs' bunt.

Justin Turner lined into a double play with the bases loaded to end the game, leaving Reyes on deck.

Guillen goes online, says he's going to Marlins

MIAMI (AP)—Ozzie Guillen tweeted Tuesday that he was in town "ready to go" with the Florida Marlins, and the clubhouse buzz was all about the new manager.

One minor holdup: The Marlins had yet to confirm a deal, saving some suspense for the final day of the regular season Wednesday. But Guillen's website eliminated much of the drama by leaking the news he has agreed to become the Marlins' manager.

A post Monday night quoted Guillen announcing he was Florida bound. The blog was taken down a short time later and replaced by a post that discussed Guillen's departure from the Chicago White Sox, while making no mention of the Marlins.

On Tuesday afternoon Guillen tweeted: "Weird to be in miami in this time but very happy ready to go".

That sounded fine to Marlins players.

"This should be a good thing," catcher John Buck said. "It's a step forward. It's a commitment by the team showing we want to win. Part of that is getting a manager who has proven that."

Guillen's briefly posted blog item said he had hoped to spend his entire managerial career with the White Sox, where he won a World Series title in 2005.

"But there comes a point when you need to move on, and that point has come," he was quoted as saying. "The Florida Marlins believe I am the right man for the job to bring another World Series to South Florida.

"I can't tell you how thrilled I am to be a part of the Marlins organization. I have an unbelievable amount of respect for the Marlins, owner Jeffrey Loria, president Larry Beinfest, and general manager Michael Hill. I can't thank them enough for this opportunity and look forward to the future. I can't wait to get started!"

Florida manager Jack McKeon said Monday he planned to retire at the end of the season. Guillen announced his departure with the White Sox hours later, but said nothing about taking another job. Florida officials declined to comment.

The Marlins, who move into a new ballpark next spring, plan a big ceremony in conjunction with the final game at their current stadium Wednesday. There's speculation they want to cap the occasion by introducing Guillen as manager, or they may do it at the new ballpark Thursday.

"All the pieces are coming together," slugger Mike Stanton said. "We got the stadium, and we got the manager."

Guillen had a year left on his contract, and White Sox general manager Ken Williams confirmed Tuesday that the club had an agreement with another team for compensation for the manager. But he did not identify the players involved and declined to say the Marlins were the other team.

"It isn't a secret," he said. "Out of respect for the desires for that particular organization, they did not want to be named so I am simply honoring that request."

He also offered a diplomatic approach when asked if the Marlins were guilty of tampering in their courtship of Guillen.

"Listen, some things in this game you have to live in the gray area on," Williams said, "and that will just have to be one of them."

The buzz began more than a year ago that Guillen might be reunited with Loria in Miami, where he was McKeon's third base coach with the 2003 World Series champions.

Guillen became the White Sox manager that November, and in eight season he had a record of 678-617. It was a sometimes stormy tenure, and when his recent quest for a contract extension was denied, he received permission to be released from his current deal.

The Marlins are staggering to a last-place finish in the NL East. With the team moving to a new home and making a push to become a contender, Loria has said he wants an experienced manager.

Haas selected to 2011 Presidents Cup team

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP GOLF WRITER

Turns out that sudden-death playoff Bill Haas won at East Lake was worth more than $11.44 million. It earned him a spot in the Presidents Cup.

U.S. captain Fred Couples used his two picks Tuesday on Tiger Woods and Haas, who won the Tour Championship for his first win of the year.

Couples took Haas, the son of vice captain Jay Haas, over Keegan Bradley, whose two wins this year include the PGA Championship.

International captain Greg Norman took Robert Allenby and Aaron Baddeley, both of whom grew up in Melbourne.

He said Allenby was an "automatic pick" because of his longtime success at Royal Melbourne, while Baddeley made it an easier choice when he tied for third at the Tour Championship.

"Bill Haas knew he had to win last week, and he did it," Couples said. "I could not leave him off the team after that. When a guy knows that second place ... and he'll tell you, second place isn't good enough. And he understood that."

He said if Haas had lost the playoff at East Lake and Bradley had finished fourth or fifth - he wound up tied for 11th - then Bradley would have been the pick.

Couples said if Steve Stricker cannot play because of an injury, then Bradley would be chosen to replace him. Stricker had an MRI on Tuesday because of weakness in his left arm, although results were not immediately disclosed.

Woods was announced as a pick five weeks ago. Couples thought it was important to let the rest of the Americans know there would be only one open spot after qualifying ended.

Woods, who missed most of the summer with left leg injuries, did not return until August and played only two tournaments, missing the cut in the PGA Championship.

He is playing next week at the Frys.com Open, and will play in the Australian Open the week before the matches.

The Presidents Cup is Nov. 17-20 at Royal Melbourne.

"Things are going great," Woods said. "We're practicing very hard up at The Medalist, and I'm playing as much as I possibly can, something that I hadn't done all summer because I hadn't been cleared to do it.

"I'm really looking forward to getting my game rounded for The Presidents Cup."

Couples also considered Brandt Snedeker, who finished 11th in the U.S. standings.

"Congrats to bill haas/(at)tigerwoods. They deserve the picks. Although I'm very disappointed, I've very happy to have been considered. GO USA," Bradley said on Twitter.

Bradley becomes the first American to win a major and be left off a team in the same year since British Open champion Todd Hamilton was not chosen for the 2004 Ryder Cup team.

For the Presidents Cup, Ben Curtis (British Open) and Shaun Micheel (PGA) were left off the 2003 team. That was their only win that year. Bradley, a 25-year-old rookie, also won the Byron Nelson Championship.

Couples said he spoke to Bradley for 45 minutes on the phone to explain his decision.

"I'm not one to say, 'Hey, you're going to be on plenty of team.' I wouldn't want to hear that," Couples said. "I know he's a young player. I laid it out on the line and told him for really three or four weeks now where everyone stood.

"I just felt like in this instance, Bill Haas has played two years, never been outside the top 12 position."

AP

Bill Haas celebrates with the FedEx Cup and the Tour Championship trophy after defeating Hunter Mahan after three playoff holes at East Lake Golf Club in Atlanta on Sunday, Sept. 25, 2011.

Haas has won three times over the past two years.

The rest of the American team that qualified two weeks ago were Stricker, Matt Kuchar, Dustin Johnson, Bubba Watson, Nick Watney, Hunter Mahan, Phil Mickelson, Jim Furyk, Webb Simpson and David Toms.

It will be the first team competition for Haas, Watney and Simpson.

Allenby and Baddeley give the International team—comprised of players from everywhere but the United States and Europe—five Australians for the matches at Royal Melbourne. It's the fifth time since the Presidents Cup began that the International side has had five Aussies.

Allenby missed the '98 matches at Royal Melbourne because he was just recovering from a near-fatal car accident and did not qualify.

It will be his sixth team, and by far the most important.

"Going down to Melbourne and playing at Royal Melbourne is probably one of the biggest highlights of my career," Allenby said.

Norman referred to him as an "automatic pick" because Allenby plays his best golf Down Under, one year winning the Australian Masters, Australian Open and the Australian PGA in the same year.

Baddeley was a more difficult choice, especially after John Senden of Australia was runner-up in the final qualifying event outside Chicago two weeks ago. Baddeley finished one shot out of the playoff at the Tour Championship, while Senden finished 25th.

"Knowing that we are playing in the backyard of Australian, I wanted to hopefully load up on the team with as many Aussies as I possibly could," Norman said.

He said he put Baddeley and Senden on notice going into the Tour Championship.

"Whoever played the best at the Tour Championship would obviously get the final nod," Norman said.

The 10 who qualified for the International team are Adam Scott, Jason Day, Charl Schwartzel, Ernie Els, K.J. Choi, K.T. Kim, Ryo Ishikawa, Y.E. Yang, Geoff Ogilvy and Retief Goosen.

Norman took Baddeley over Senden, former British Open champion Louis Oosthuizen and Vijay Singh, who was the only player to have competed in all eight Presidents Cup matches.

NBA, players meet; labor talks to resume Wednesday

NEW YORK (AP)—Smiling widely but even resorting to a memorable NBA cliche to avoid specifics, David Stern provided little insight into the direction of the league's labor situation.

That, he hinted, could come Wednesday.

Negotiators for the NBA and its players met for only about two hours Tuesday and plan to resume the talks early Wednesday. Stern said that meeting will determine how soon it's worth sitting down again.

And if it's not later this week, more cancellations are likely next week.

It's been expected there would be no talks Thursday because members of both bargaining teams will be observing the Jewish holiday, but they could resume before the weekend if progress is being made.

"They and we have both agreed that so long as there is reason to keep discussing, we will keep discussing, undeterred by the calendar or weekends or things like that," Stern said. "We will know more after tomorrow's session."

Both sides said neither concern nor optimism should be read into the brevity of the meeting. They simply needed time to think about what had been discussed.

"We've talked extensively in ideas and concepts, these are things that if we can get into the range of, get into the zone of, then maybe we can put a deal together," players' association president Derek Fisher of the Lakers said.

Unlike last week, Stern grinned often while speaking to reporters, but he said that was "only because when I didn't smile the last time I was described as something between dour and surly, so this is my smiling face. And we're looking forward to reconvening tomorrow."

He repeatedly said the sides discussed "concepts," but wouldn't get into any of them. And when asked if more exhibition games would be scrapped without a breakthrough this week, he borrowed a line from Rasheed Wallace in answering.

"Both teams played hard," he said. "And the calendar is not our friend."

Training camps were postponed and all 43 preseason games scheduled for Oct. 9-15 were canceled Friday. With the lockout nearly three months complete, players and owners are trying to agree on a labor deal in time to avoid any further damage to the NBA calendar. The regular season begins Nov. 1.

The format was again with small groups, and that will remain the case Wednesday. However, Deputy Commissioner Adam Silver said the owners' labor relations committee would be prepared to return to the table this week if necessary.

"They stand ready to come to New York, or wherever else, if there's a reason to continue on Friday," he said. "So the groups may expand."

Stern and Silver were joined by Spurs owner Peter Holt, who leads the labor relations committee, and NBA senior vice president and deputy general counsel Dan Rube.

Fisher and union executive director Billy Hunter had attorneys Jeffrey Kessler and Ron Klempner with them, and economist Kevin Murphy will return Wednesday.

Neither side would say if there were any new proposals, with Fisher also using the word concepts.

"We're not holding anybody accountable to ideas being thrown out in the room," he said. "It's really just a process that we're trying to go through to see if we can get a deal done."

Stern and Fisher said there was discussion of both major obstacles to a deal, the salary cap system and the split of revenues. Players were guaranteed 57 percent under the previous collective bargaining agreement, but have said the owners' proposals would have them in the 40s.

Stern was asked if the sides would continue to meet often if this wasn't headed somewhere. Though he assumed they would, a clearer idea could emerge Wednesday.

"We won't really be able to answer that question fully until after tomorrow's session," he said.

LeBron, Wade set to headline Oct. 8 game in Miami

MIAMI (AP)—Miami Heat stars LeBron James, Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh are planning to headline a charity game featuring some of the NBA's top players in Miami on Oct. 8.

Kevin Durant, Carmelo Anthony, Amare Stoudemire, Rajon Rondo and John Wall have also committed to play.

Details are still being finalized and although no contracts had been signed by late Tuesday, an official announcement about the game and ticket information for the contest is expected Wednesday. The game will be played at Florida International, where Basketball Hall of Famer Isiah Thomas is a coach.

FIU's gym can hold around 5,000 fans. University officials said they expect the game to quickly sell out. All proceeds will go to charity, with at least some of that money earmarked for educational programs in South Florida.

The game would be the latest in a series of exhibitions NBA players are participating in this offseason during the league's lockout. James has appeared in several of those contests, including one on Sunday in Philadelphia, where he scored 43 points.

It will be the first time James, Wade and Bosh take the court together since last season's NBA finals. Heat teammate Mario Chalmers has also agreed to play in the game, as have former Miami forwards Caron Butler (who spent last season with Dallas) and Dorell Wright (now with Golden State).

Other players who have agreed to take part so far include: Jamal Crawford, Rudy Gay, Jonny Flynn, Eric Bledsoe, Lou Williams, Wesley Matthews and Eddy Curry. Many of those have spent at least some time this offseason working out in South Florida.

Konflikt wins Prostate Cancer Awareness 3-on-3 caging

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Konflikt topped five other teams to win the 2011 Department of Public Health-Masters Basketball Federation of the NMI 35A Prostate Cancer Awareness 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament held last Saturday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

The team, made up of Elmer Esdrelon, Bruce Berline, Junar Guiab, Edsel Mendosa, and Cuki Alvarez, took home various gift certificates for their victory in the one-day competition.

Konlflikt swept the field in four games, all in convincing fashion.

Konflikt torched Joeten Superstore, 39-16, in the first match and went on to rout the Homeboys, 40-27, in their second match.

Konflikt then bested Team Morales, 20-14, before Legends conceded victory to the champs after just one half of play.

Konflikt amassed a 25-7 margin before Legends threw in the towel.

The half court games were played under two 12-minute halves. Each team was awarded a pair of timeouts per half. Field goals counted for one point and 3-pointers were worth two. The event utilized a double-elimination format.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Konflikt's Elmer Esdrelon drives to the hoop in last Saturday's 2011 DPH-MBFNMI 35A Prostate Cancer Awareness 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament at the Garapan Basketball Court.

T-shirts and other consolation prizes were handed out to all participants.

The event was put on to promote September as Prostate Cancer Awareness month.

Prostate cancer tends to develop in men over the age of 50, and although it is one of the most prevalent forms of cancer often times the symptoms are not detected. Prostate cancer usually progresses very slowly and many factors, including genetics and diet, contribute to its development.

Exercise and a healthy diet can help prevent its development as well as medication.

Prostate cancer has also been known to spread to other parts of the body, particularly in bones and lymph nodes.

It is recommended for men above the age of 40 undergo routine check ups whether through a biopsy or screening for early detection of the disease.

Although its cause is unknown men with first-degree family members that have contracted prostate cancer are twice as likely to come down with it. Men with high blood pressure are also more likely to develop prostate cancer.

CABALEN

From Page 28

Cabalen, which won last year's masters championship against MAFEA/Ebisuya, broke its semis foe's back in the second quarter and protected its double-digit lead in the second half en route to the easy victory. The defending champion will now face the winner of the MDX/Armatech-VisMinda/PIAHI tiff in the one-game finals next week.

MAFEA/RNV, which dropped to the consolation game after the semis loss, stayed in the match only in the first period when it fell behind by a deuce, 12-14.

In the second quarter, MAFEA started having problems on its offense with its limited option, as the team was without Danny Bicera and Ferdie de la Torre.

In contrast Cabalen's shooters started to click in the second frame and the defending champion took full control of the match. Edsel Mendoza and Eric Atalig teamed up in the breakaway, scoring nine and eight points, respectively.

Cabalen exploded for 31 points in the second canto against MAFEA's 15 for a big 45-27 advantage at the break.

After missing the first half, De la Torre showed up in the third quarter and gave MAFEA instant offense, firing six straight points midway in that canto. With de la Torre's contribution, MAFEA managed to move within 13, 41-54. However, a nasty cut on his right hand broke de la Torre's momentum and forced him to sit out in the last three minutes of the third and the entire fourth quarter.

De la Torre sustained the injury when he tried to recover a loose ball and his hand slammed to one of the players' shoe before he dropped on the ground and unconsciously used the damaged hand for cushion.

With de la Torre out, MAFEA scored only two points in the remaining minutes of the third canto, while Cabalen pulled away further, 64-43, with only one quarter to go.

Next up to leave the floor for MAFEA was Elmer Pineda, who opted to sit out the remaining six minutes of the match to cool down after getting involved in a confrontation with Cabalen's Mike Cruz.

Both Cruz and Pineda were called for technical fouls due to second motion at the 6:16 mark of the final canto with Cabalen comfortably ahead, 66-45. The incident was fueled by an earlier collision between the two players on MAFEA's froncourt. Cruz collared the rebound after Pineda's miss and as the former tried to protect the leather, his wayward elbow almost hit the latter.

When it was Cabalen's turn to execute its offense, Cruz pulled up for a jumper near the 15-foot line and Pineda used his right arm to push off the former. Cruz lost his balance and the referee called a foul on Pineda. After the infraction, Cruz and Pineda pushed each other and traded heated words. Other players and game officials then stepped in to prevent the fight from escalating.

When the game resumed MAFEA began waving the white flag and just watched Cabalen walk away with easy shots.

Tony Diaz top-scored for Cabalen with 24 points, while Mendoza chipped in 22. Atalig also finished in double figures with 12.

Dado Vistal paced MAFEA with 20 markers, while Ed Manalili and Ed Cosino added 12 and 10, respectively.

Cabalen/Wings Travel 87 – Diaz 24, Mendoza 22, Atalig 12, Cruz 6, Palacios 6, Santos 4, Ocampo 4, Macoto 2, Morales 2.

MAFEA/RNV 63 – Vistal 20, Manalili 12, Cosino 10, de la Torre 6, Canoy 5, Sevilla 4, Pineda 4, Guirey 2.

Scoring by quarters: 14-12, 45-27, 64-43, 87-63.

NAMFREL

From Page 28

managed to escape from Proa's backcourt press, which happened only on a few occasions, the latter still recovered at the frontcourt, foiling the former's fastbreak plays.

On offense, Namfrel/Proa consistently made its outside shots and had a field day from downtown in the fourth quarter where it canned seven triples.

Pete Iguel started Namfrel/Proa's attack, firing eight straight points in the first period, which ended with the winning squad ahead by only three, 25-22. The lead was stretched to nine at the break, 49-40, with Iguel still hitting his shots, adding nine more markers and Barcinas chipping in seven.

In the third quarter, Namfrel/Proa's lead ballooned to as much as 17, 57-40, before the Hoops slightly recovered behind Dave Sablan's baskets and moved within 19, 53-63.

The third period ended with Namfrel/Proa on top by a manageable lead, 65-53, but the advantage was back to 17 after Jack Lizama started the fourth canto with a layup and Quincy Johnson followed it up with a triple.

Namfrel/Proa drilled six more triples in the ensuing plays with the last one coming from Gino Libuw and giving the team its biggest lead at 24 points, 98-74, 2:32 left on the clock.

Namfrel/Proa coach Rufino Aguon sued for time after Libuw's basket and when the game resumed, the former let his second stringers finish the match.

Iguel left the court with 40 points, while Lizama and Johnson chipped in 14 each. Barcinas contributed 12.

Dave Sablan led the Hoops with 30 markers, but he had to bleed for his points, as he was hounded by Namfrel/Proa defenders in the majority of the first three periods of the match. Sablan tallied 13 of his total markers in the fourth when Namfrel/Proa started loosening up its defense. James Villacrusis added 18, while Kelvin Fitial had a quiet 13 markers.

Namfrel/Proa 105 – Iguel 40, Lizama 14, Johnson 14, Barcinas 12, Chariton 7, Ogumoro 5, Valdez 4, Sablan 4, Libuw 3, Babauta 2.

UPAA/Docomo Hoopaholics 83 – D. Sablan 30, Villacrusis 18, Fitial 13, Cabrera 10, Palacios 7, Manibusan 3, Mendez 2.

Scoring by quarters: 25-22, 49-40, 65-53, 105-83.

3 PAIRS

From Page 28

With Bandoja and Choi already notching one finals seat, four more teams will march into the semifinals and battle for the second and last finals slot. Guintu and Obata (6-2), Ferdie Arago and Annette Quambao (6-2), and Reyes and Malasarte (5-3) are in the crossover semis. Andrew Galvez and Merlie Tolentino and Rodwealth Espana and Angie Ito were scheduled to duel for the fourth semis berth last night.

In the mixed doubles B, only one finals seat is also left, as Bandoja and Oh In Sook had already secured the first championship spot. Bandoja recorded his second perfect slate when he and Sook logged an 8-0 record in Pool A.

No team swept Pool B of the mixed doubles B division, allowing Oh Inbog and Obata (7-1) and Chris Hilario and Annette Ta (7-1) to advance to the semis. The two semifinalists were scheduled to play in a ranking match last night to determine the No. 1 and No. 2 teams in the semis. In the semifinals, the No. 1 team in Pool A will play the No. 2 squad in Pool B and vice versa. The winner of the semis pairing will then slug it out for the last finals berth and challenge Sook and Bandoja in the finals.

In Pool A, there is also a tie between the tandems of Lito Mendoza and Marylyn Montano (6-2) and Quiambao and Saul Gargallo (6-2) and they were set to break the deadlock last night.

The third outright finals seat went to Kanata Omori and Cleofe Santos, who topped Pool B of the mixed doubles C with their 6-0 record.

Joel Ortega and Kim Boranah finished second in Pool B with their 5-1 slate to march into the semifinals with Jerome Malasarte and Cris Obaldo (4-2). In Pool A, Luis Camacho and Elna Curate ruled the field (6-1), beating Brandon Talania and Wendy Fernandez (6-1) in the tiebreak.

Curate and Camacho will take on Jerome Malasarte and Obaldo in the semis, while Boranah and Ortega will duel Talania and Fernandez in the other semis pairing this weekend. Winners in the two semis tiffs will then fight for the right to meet Omori and Santos in the finals this Sunday.

FUTSAL

From Page 28

men's league. Wild Bill's was handed the championship trophy after topping the two-round robin competition with an impressive 13-1-0 win-loss-draw record.

Wild Bill's absorbed its lone loss in the inaugural league at the hands of eventual fourth placer Korean Futsal Team, 6-8, last Aug. 1. The champion team went on to sweep the second round of the league after bowing to Korean Futsal in the first round.

The inaugural men's league champion squad is composed of goalie Greg Borja, Lar Wongpanya, Jeeraphong Thoensaket, Mai Tree, Narongchai Khamtha, Adul Detdon, Jian Dong He, Jiayuan Guo, Perry Po, Suriya Simuana, Boonsong Sekean, Jonathan Mafnas, Greg Elliot, Robert Jordan, and Jack Tanapon.

Wild Bill's main striker, Thoensaket, was also honored in the awards ceremony for making the most goals in the league with 65.

Irish Pagarao took the Golden Boot plum in the women's division for drilling 34 goals and her team, Shirley's A, was awarded the women's championship trophy.

Shirley's A finished the two-round robin competition with an 11-3-0 card and 33 points, just one point ahead of IT&E Awesome (10-2-2).

Two more teams were recognized in the awards ceremony with Mellow Yellow winning the Fair Play plum in the women's division and IT&E prevailing in the men's category.

The Saipan Soccer School is a sport facility located at the TSL Sports Complex. It opened in June this year and since then has held several clinics for youths. The school will also continue to hold competitions in the coming years.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-New York	97	64	.602	–
Boston	90	71	.559	7
Tampa Bay	90	71	.559	7
Toronto	80	81	.497	17
Baltimore	68	93	.422	29

Central Division

x-Detroit	94	67	.584	–
Cleveland	80	81	.497	14
Chicago	79	82	.491	15
Kansas City	71	90	.441	23
Minnesota	62	99	.385	32

West Division

x-Texas	95	66	.590	–
Los Angeles	86	75	.534	9
Oakland	73	88	.453	22
Seattle	67	94	.416	28

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

x-Philadelphia	101	60	.627	–
Atlanta	89	72	.553	12
Washington	79	81	.494	21 1/2
New York	76	85	.472	25
Florida	72	89	.447	29

Central Division

x-Milwaukee	95	66	.590	–
St. Louis	89	72	.553	6
Cincinnati	79	82	.491	16
Pittsburgh	72	89	.447	23
Chicago	71	90	.441	24
Houston	56	105	.348	39

West Division

x-Arizona	94	67	.584	–
San Francisco	86	75	.534	8
Los Angeles	81	79	.506	12 1/2
Colorado	72	89	.447	22
San Diego	70	91	.435	24

x-clinched division

Yesterday's Games

Cincinnati 5, N.Y. Mets 4, 13 innings
Philadelphia 7, Atlanta 1
Florida 3, Washington 2
St. Louis 13, Houston 6
Milwaukee 6, Pittsburgh 4
Arizona 7, L.A. Dodgers 6, 10 innings
Chicago Cubs 6, San Diego 2
San Francisco 7, Colorado 0
Boston 8, Baltimore 7
Detroit 9, Cleveland 6
Tampa Bay 5, N.Y. Yankees 3
Minnesota 7, Kansas City 4
Chicago White Sox 2, Toronto 1
Texas 10, L.A. Angels 3
Oakland 7, Seattle 0

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

UFO STANDINGS

Open

Namfrel/Proa	7	0
UPAA/Hoopaholics	6	2
Cabalen/Noni	6	1
Ali'i Konflikt	4	4
Bayani/Mobil	4	4
Visminda/Satbahi	4	4
Cavite/Andok's	2	6
NMBA/Mixed Blood	1	7
MDX/Blue Haus	1	7

Prostate Cancer Awareness 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament

PHOTOS By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND

Participants gather for a group photo during Saturday's 2011 DPH-MBFNMI Prostate Cancer Awareness 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament.

Home Boys' Felix Palacios finds an open shot from the post against Satbahi.

Konflikt's Elmer Esdrelon attempts a jump shot from the wing against Joeten Superstore.

Satbahi and Home Boys players cheer on their teammates from the bench.

Konflikt's Bruce Berline goes over the ground rules for players.

Konflikt's Bruce Berline goes to work down low in the post against Joeten Superstore.

Family Plan Program manager Ariel Buyum, RN greets and thanks the players before games went underway in last Saturday's 2011 DPH-MBFNMI Prostate Cancer Awareness 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Konflikt's Cuki Alvarez pops a jumper against Joeten Superstore.

Home Boys' Tony Diaz goes up strong against Satbahi.

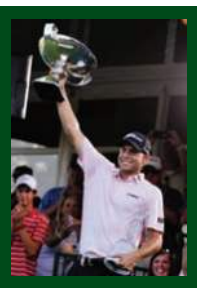
Satbahi's Jun Park creates space down low for a shot against the Home Boys.

Surging Rays win again, beat Yankees

24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Bill Haas selected to 2011 Presidents Cup team



25

Cabalen/Wings Travel back in finals

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Cabalen/Wings Travel's Edsel Mendoza, left, drives and draws a foul from MAFEA/RNV's Ed Manalili during their semis game in the UFO Docomo Cup on Tuesday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Cabalen/Wings Travel earned a return trip to the finals after pounding MAFEA/RNV, 87-63, in their semis match in the UFO Inter-Organization Masters Basketball Docomo Pacific Cup 2011 on Tuesday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

See CABALEN on Page 26

Namfrel/Proa nears regular season sweep

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Seven down, one to go.

Namfrel/Proa moved a win away from sweeping its elimination round games in the UFO Inter-Organization Basketball Friendship League 2011 Bud Cup after dominating UPAA/Docomo Hoopaholics, 105-83, on Tuesday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

Namfrel/Proa plays Cabalen/Noni tonight in the last match in the UFO Bud Cup regular season and a win will give the former the top ranking in the nine-team field and a bye in the first round of the playoffs. If Namfrel/Proa loses in the 8pm game, Cabalen (6-1) will get the No. 1 spot and the incentive that goes with it.

UPAA/Hoopaholics (6-2) could end up at either second or third place depending on the results of the Cabalen/Proa match. The Hoops had their five-game winning run snapped after the loss to Proa.

Namfrel/Proa put up a tough pressure defense on UPAA/Hoopaholics all throughout the game, preventing the latter from executing its half court offense. When UPAA/Hoopaholics

See NAMFREL on Page 26

3 pairs advance to title matches

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Three more outright finals berths in the 2011 Shirley's Badminton Classic were secured after the games over the weekend at the TSL Sports Complex.

In the mixed doubles Lower A, Gary Bandoja and Hannai Choi completed their matches in the nine-team group with a perfect 8-0 record to book the first finals ticket. Competition rules give automatic championship seats to teams with undefeated slate after the round-robin elimination.

Bandoja and Choi swept their elimination round assignments after prevailing over Dick Guintu and Toshiko Obata, Macoi Aguda and Lot Abuel, and Robert Reyes and Malou Malasarte last weekend.

See 3 PAIRS on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Oh In Sook, left returns while Gary Bandoja looks on during their mixed doubles B game against Annette Quiambao and Saul Gargallo in the 2011 Shirley's Badminton Classic at the TSL Sports Complex.

Futsal league winners recognized

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Players of Shirley's A and Wild Bill's receive their championship trophies during a brief awards ceremony for the 2011 Saipan Soccer School Futsal League last Monday at the TSL Sports Complex.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The inaugural season of the 2011 Saipan Soccer School Futsal League concluded last Monday with a brief awards ceremony at the TSL Sports Complex.

Leading the list of awardees was Wild Bill's, which ruled the eight-team

See FUTSAL on Page 26